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NMC resumes classes on Tinian and Rota

Northern Marianas College announced yesterday that it has resumed academic classes on Tinian and Rota.

The classes are offered as part of the college's fall 2017 semester, which began earlier this week.

The college suspended classes on the two islands several years ago due to accreditation-related concerns.

"This is a milestone for Northern Marianas College and a tremendous step forward in expanding Northern Marianas College's services for the residents of Tinian and Rota," according to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

The NMC centers on Tinian and Rota have already been providing other learning and support services and workforce training. It is the academic offerings that resumed on these two islands.

Fernandez said this will allow resi-

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Northern Marianas College is expanding its academic offerings on Tinian and Rota. In this photo, NMC students on Tinian take a moment for a photo. NMC

Bill to add 350 CW slots now law

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» HR 339 opens CW slots for the first time in program's history

President Donald J. Trump signed into law yesterday Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill that, for the first time in the history of the CW-1 program, creates an additional 350 worker slots for this fiscal year.

HR 339 was enacted after the U.S. House of Representatives accepted the U.S. Senate amendment to open up 350 more slots for the CW-1 program. Currently, the CNMI is allowed 12,998 CW-1 workers. With the additional 350 this fiscal year, the CNMI is now

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NEW ARFF FIRE CHIEF BEA CABRERA

From left, Commonwealth Ports Authority comptroller Skye Aldan, the new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting chief Frederick Pangelinan, and CPA executive director Christopher Tenorio. Pangelinan became the new ARFF fire chief effective Aug. 14, 2017. Pangelinan started his career at the ARFF in 1996, working his way up. "My vision is to move the ARFF forward with all the programs that the Federal Aviation Administration would like us to incorporate into the training programs, aside from just firefighting training," he said.

NMI is 3rd fastest growing tourist destination

The Northern Mariana Islands was ranked the third-fastest growing tourist destination in the world, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization's World Tourism Barometer.

The latest published data from the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, which was also reported by CNN, indicated that destinations worldwide received 369 million international tourists in the first four months of 2017. This figure is 21 million more in the same period in 2016, representing a 6-percent increase in worldwide arrivals.

International arrivals reported by destinations around the world were positive overall and varied by region.

In 2016, the Northern Mariana Islands tourism arrivals grew by 37.3 percent, with

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Local

Tony de Brum, Pacific voice on climate change, dies, 72

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
In this Nov. 2015 photo, Tony de Brum, Foreign Minister of the Marshall Islands, receives, on behalf of the people of the Marshall Islands an honorary award for their struggle against all nine nuclear weapons states for their failure to abide by the provisions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty from Jakob von Uexkull, the founder of the award.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Tony de Brum saw the effects of rising seas from his home in the Marshall Islands and became a leading advocate for the landmark Paris Agreement and an internationally recognized voice in the fight against climate change.

De Brum, who was the Pacific nation's climate ambassador and former foreign minister, died Tuesday in the capital Majuro surrounded by his family, according to Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine. He was 72.

After witnessing nuclear testing in the islands while growing up, de Brum also fought against nuclear weapons and for his nation's independence.

Heine described him as a national hero.

"The very existence of the Paris Agreement owes a lot to Tony de Brum," Heine said in a statement. "He was a giant of history, a legend in every meaning of the word, and a custodian of our shared future."

When The Associated Press visited de Brum at his Majuro home in 2015, he described how he'd grown up catching rabbitfish off Enebok Island, which was lush with coconut and breadfruit trees at the time.

But in recent years, the island has slipped beneath the water. When the AP visited the island with de Brum, all that remained at low tide was a pile of rocks that snagged flotsam including a sandal, some frayed rope and a sprouting coconut.

Although the Marshall Islands, population 70,000, remains one of the places most vulnerable to climate change because it protrudes just 2 meters (6 feet) above sea level, de Brum said at the time that he was determined to stay and fight.

"The thought of evacuation is repulsive to us," he told the AP. "We think that the more reasonable thing to do is to seek to end this madness, this climate madness, where people think that smaller, vulnerable countries are expendable and therefore they can continue to do business as usual."

Heine said de Brum was out fishing with his grandfather at age 9 when he witnessed the horrors of "Bravo shot," a U.S. thermonuclear test at Bikini Atoll.

Born in Tuvalu, de Brum became one of the first Marshallese to attend university and returned home to become a leading participant in negotiations that secured the nation's compact of free association with the U.S. and membership to the United Nations.

Heine said de Brum remained committed to the cause of nuclear justice and global disarmament, as well as climate change.

During the negotiations for the Paris accord, de Brum helped form the "High Ambition Coalition" of 100 rich and poor nations and helped secure a global commitment to try to limit Earth's warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-Industrial times.

The U.S. signed up for the accord under President Barack Obama but President Donald Trump announced in June that the nation would withdraw.

"He was incredibly important to all of us," said Marshall Islands poet Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, who is related to de Brum. "He is viewed for his work globally, but he was also a grandfather, an uncle, and a father, and was much more than his accomplishments."

Jetnil-Kijiner wrote a poem dedicated to de Brum and Matlan Zackhras, a government minister who died earlier this month and who was also dedicated to fighting climate change.

"They say there are no mountains, in the Marshalls, the land that is close, to an expiration date," Jetnil-Kijiner wrote. "But I will tell you the mountains, were men, giants who walked across the sea, sounding the call for the world, to hear our story."

Heine said de Brum is survived by his father, his wife Rosalie, three children, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

MVA backs bill extending terms of public land leases

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The top official of the Marianas Visitors Authority believes a Senate bill to extend the lease terms of public lands for a total of 55 years is good news for the CNMI's tourism marketing arm.

If signed into law, Senate Bill 20-35 will entice more for businesses to invest in the CNMI market, said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion.

Senate Bill 20-35 would allow public land leases to be extended to 40 years (from the current 25 years), with an extension of up to 15 years—for a total of 55 years.

Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution already allows a maximum lease term of 55 years for private land leases.

Concepcion

"Investors seek maximum return on their investment and land leases are a key determining factor when making decisions on where to spend their money," said Concepcion.

He said that Senate Bill 20-35, if enacted, will encourage investment in the CNMI "since it basically allows foreign-owned companies the ability to hold public land leases similar to the maximum length allowed for private property, which is set by Article 12 at 55 years."

Senate Bill 20-35 already passed the Senate last week and is awaiting House action.

Currently, there are five hotels which leases will expire soon: Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Point Resort Club.

With the CNMI's booming tourism, the economy cannot afford to lose hotel accommodations, Concepcion said, or invest in below quality accommodations for visitors and tourists.

Concepcion said that today's tourism industry is highly competitive. "In order for the CNMI to remain a top-notch destination, we need to have hotel properties that meet or exceed the standards expected in other destinations."

"Hotels in the CNMI are eager to improve their product but are hampered by the terms of their lease. No sound business owner would make any substantial investment in their properties if the return will be minimal or at a loss," he added.

"If they are to invest millions to upgrade their facilities, they should be allowed ample time to recoup that investment. This bill will do just that." Concepcion added.

MVA sees a number of advantages if Senate Bill 20-35 becomes a law.

"For one, it permits them to reinvest in their properties and recoup that investment over a certain time period. Second, it provides higher standard for the tourism industry and better facilities for our visitors who have become very sophisticated, with high expectations when visiting beach resort destinations that fly the U.S. flag."

Concepcion added since the CNMI is a part of the United States, people expect its standards to be at par with other premium destinations in the region.

"Unfortunately, some of our existing hotel properties have not been able to keep up with those expectations because of the potential revenue loss they may incur should their leases expire before they are able to realize a solid return on investment," he said.

The extension of public land leases will give these hotels the needed reassurance and will be another boost to the CNMI's economy, he said.

"The investment climate in the CNMI remains positive and this law will only enhance the appeal of the Marianas as a preferred destination for people looking to spend," Concepcion said.

BOE MEETING ON TINIAN
PSS
The CNMI Board of Education, the policymaking body of the Public School System, held its meeting on Tinian yesterday. In this photo, the president of Tinian Advisory Council, Arley Long, foreground standing, addresses the BOE and PSS management. Board chair Maria Lourdes S. Ada presided over the meeting that was also attended by board vice chair Janice Marie Ada Tenorio, secretary/treasurer Herman Atalig, and board members Florine Hofschneider and Herman T. Guerrero, teacher representative Paul Miura, student representative Mariah Manuel Cruz, and Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero.

2 Marpi robbers get 6-year prison terms

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two men who were caught on video while fleeing the scene of a robbery in Marpi last May pleaded guilty yesterday and were each slapped with six-year prison sentences.

Jazzy Kulas Rosokow, 39, and Alvin Iguel Blas, 28, both pleaded guilty to theft and assault and battery.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Rosokow and Blas each to the maximum sentence of five years imprisonment for theft, and one year in prison for assault and battery. The two won't be eligible for parole.

Camacho noted that defendants have no prior convictions.

Rosokow and Blas were given credit for time served of 95 days and 101 days, respectively. They will be held jointly liable to pay $3,652 to Quichan Yang.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement will be given a copy of the judgment against Rosokow, who is a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Office of the Attorney General originally charged the two with robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery, and disturbing the peace. The charges carry a total maximum sentence of 20 years and six months.

The OAG later amended the charges to robbery, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

On Monday, the OAG again amended the charge to theft and assault and battery. The offenses carry a total maximum sentence of six years imprisonment.

The two were caught on video while fleeing on a rental car after robbing one of three female tourists along Banzai Cliff Road in Marpi on May 14, 2017.

A video taken during the robbery by another tourist led to the identification of the getaway car and Blas.

Blas, who was arrested hours after the robbery, confessed to the crime and this resulted in the arrest of Rosokow last May 22.

Police said it was Blas who grabbed the backpack from Yang and ran to a white Hyundai Accent. During the strug-

See ROBBERS on Next Page

Man gets 30 months in prison for selling 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona handed down on Tuesday a 30-month prison term against a man for selling methamphetamine or "ice" in Garapan in 2014.

After completing his prison term, Xi Rong Chen, also known as Loa Biao, will be placed on supervised release for three years.

Among the conditions of his supervised release is that Chen must report to an immigration official for deportation proceedings, perform 100 hours of community work service, and pay a $100 special assessment fee immediately after his sentencing.

Chen pleaded guilty last January to an indictment charging him with distribution of a controlled substance as part of a plea deal.

Chen sold 4.8 grams of 98.8 percent of d-methamphetamine hydrochloride to an individual working as a confidential source for the Drug Enforcement Administration in the area of the old Winchell's Donut House on Beach Road on Aug. 19, 2014.

Chen later said he knew that the substance he sold to the confidential source was methamphetamine.

Defense counsel George Hasselback is the private counsel for Chen. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe is counsel for the U.S. government.

Aguon pushes for lit Kagman streets

Rep. Francisco Aguon (R-Saipan) continues to push the installation of streetlights throughout Kagman.

Since taking his seat as a representative in the 20th Legislature, Aguon has been advocating for streetlights in Kagman 1, 2, and 3.

Aguon lamented how dark Kagman streets get in the evenings due to the lack of lights, saying this puts a damper on the feeling of safety residents.

He also believes that, if the streets are well lit, people would have a choice of walking to and from nearby places like the store or the laundromat.

Unfortunately, funding has been Aguon's biggest challenge.

As much as he wants to get the project done, he said it has been extremely hard to get the funding needed to carry out the project.

About $112,000 is needed to install streetlights in Kagman 1, 2, and 3.

His priority is the main highway, Route 34, and the community area. According to him, lighting the main highway alone would cost about $8,000.

Aguon has been discussing his plans with the two agencies that are usually involved with streetlights: the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Department of Public Works.

Although the two entities are on board, it all goes back to the funding dilemma, according to Aguon. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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‘OAG gives ‘discounted’ sentences for 2 ‘ice’ defendants

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday stated that the Office of the Attorney General gave a 92 percent and 85 percent “discount” on the possible maximum sentences of two defendants who pleaded guilty to illegal possession of methamphetamine or “ice.”

Camacho said the OAG basically removed 60 years of a possible consecutive sentence in the case against Rui Wei Huang, and 55 years of a possible consecutive sentence in the case against Hong Xiao Shao Ayuyu.

Camacho sentenced Huang and Ayuyu each to two years imprisonment, to be served without the possibility of parole.

Huang, 42, also known as JCC Brother and No-No, was given credit for 441 days of time served, while Ayuyu, 46, was given credit of 201 days of time served.

Camacho

Huang and Ayuyu were ordered to pay a $2,000 fine.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement will be given a copy of the orders in the two cases. Huang and Ayuyu are both citizens of China.

Camacho cited the OAG’s conflicting messages in these two cases, saying the OAG had stated in writing that “ice” is a plague in this community that affects everyone and that the OAG asks the court to take a hard stance against crimes involving “ice.”

Camacho noted that it is the OAG that decides what charges to file and the court can only hear the cases as filed.

In Huang’s case, he was arrested on June 15, 2016, and charged with two counts of trafficking a controlled substance and three counts of possession of a controlled substance, for a possible consecutive sentence of 65 years.

Camacho said the OAG then amended the charges against Huang to only one count of possession of a controlled substance, for a possible sentence of five years imprisonment.

Huang pleaded guilty.

Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio had recommended the maximum sentence of five years imprisonment against Huang. A Public Defender’s Office lawyer that represented Huang recommended a sentence of time-served.

In Ayuyu’s case, Camacho said the defendant was arrested on Dec. 22, 2016 and charged with two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance and three counts of possession of a controlled substance, for a possible consecutive sentence of 64 years.

Yet OAG again amended the information, Camacho said, charging Ayuyu with only two counts of possession of controlled substance, for a possible sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

Ayuyu pleaded guilty to two counts.

Tenorio recommended a prison term of five years. Assistant public defender Jamal Saleh recommended a sentence of just two years.

A CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officer said their “cooperating source” managed to buy $340 and $120 worth of “ice” from Huang in separate operations in Garapan.

Police said a cooperating defendant managed to buy 1.6 gross grams and 3.6 gross grams of “ice” worth $180 and $660 respectively from Ayuyu, in the back of a dress shop in Chalan Kanoa.

BILL

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allowed to have up to 13,348 CW-1 workers.

Other key provisions of HR 339 include removing construction workers from the CW-1 program and a $50-increase in the education fee that employers pay when petitioning a foreign worker. The fee used to be $150 but is now $200. The money, which goes back to the NMI government, is used to fund local educational programs.

According to Sablan, HR 339 is more of a “short-term solution” to “address the crisis” caused by Chinese construction companies hogging about 4,000 CW-1 slots for fiscal year 2017. Sablan emphasized that the mere act of passing a bill in a period where the U.S. House is in recess is rare, highlighting the significance of HR 339 passing Congress.

The House unanimously accepted the Senate amendments in a special *pro forma* session last Aug. 11, 2017.

“This is the first time that the CNMI has ever gotten an increase in CW-1 permits; it has always been a decrease,” said Sablan, citing the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 provision that annually lowers the number of individuals who may be issued a CW-1 visa.

Sablan said the crisis that Chinese construction companies caused have sent “high-value occupations” home, effectively hurting local businesses, including the Commonwealth Health Center and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

HR 339 is a unique legislation that sets aside 60 CW-1 slots for the health-related occupations essential to CHC as well as 10 CW-1 slots for CUC engineers, leaving a total of 280 slots for the rest of the private sector.

“Going forward with any long-term solution, I think we have now achieved recognition for the need for some flexibility, depending on the circumstances, to adjust the number of workers so it meets our economic needs,” said Sablan in a statement.

Long-term solution

Sablan reiterated in yesterday’s press conference that HR 339 is not a long-term solution, but the legislation has elements of what he wishes to see in the long-term.

“We are able to, by law, set aside [CW-1 slots] for specific high-value occupations,” he said—a provision that he wishes to push for in the long-term CW-1 solution.

Sablan said the “set-aside concept” was an amendment the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources added after the former provided data collected from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and CUC on the numbers of CW workers whose work permits were expiring soon.

Besides setting aside a specific number of slots for both CHC and CUC, Sablan said his bill raises the CW-1 education fee from $150 to $200 to support training the local workforce even further.

According to Sablan, the CNMI government has collected almost $10 million. Around $3 million is still available, he said, citing the Government Accountability Office’s testimony at the April 2017 hearing on his bill.

Sablan said GAO reported last May 2016 that there are 2,400 unemployed CNMI residents “who are actively looking for work.”

“… We should be using [the education fee] money to help them get the training they need to fill specific jobs in our economy,” he said.

The GAO report 17-437, which cites data from the 2016 CNMI health survey, may be accessed online at http://www.gao.gov/assets/690/684778.pdf.

Without elaborating on his plans, Sablan earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that after he would soon begin to “turn to legislation with a longer-term solution.”

Torres thanks Trump

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in a statement issued by the administration, thanked Trump for “staying true to his word” to assist the NMI with its workforce struggles.

“I spoke with the President back in April [at] the Oval Office and expressed our need for an adequate workforce that will continue to ensure the economic success of our islands,” said Torres in the statement. “He personally gave me his commitment to help us.”

Torres, who supported the intent of HR 339, added that sights must now be focused on a long-term solution to the CNMI’s workforce issues to address “healthcare and labor needs that also incorporate fixes to the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.”

“I have worked with our business community, hospital, private clinics, and our Legislature on a thorough proposal to address these issues,” said Torres in the statement, adding that the proposal would be submitted to “our federal partners soon.” He did not elaborate on what that proposal is.

“It is my hope that Congress will act on legislation that will address the CNMI’s labor, healthcare, and economic issues for decades to come,” he added.

NMC

From Page 1

dents to work toward their degree without having to leave.

The college also currently runs programs that are part of the Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service, plus workforce development trainings from NMC’s Community Development Institute, on Rota and Tinian.

Fernandez said the new executive directors of the NMC centers on Tinian and Rota, Maria Aguon and Martin Mendiola, respectively, have been working extremely hard to ensure that the college meets local workforce and educational needs.

The classes offered on Tinian include criminal justice courses that began earlier this week. The classes on Rota will be offered later in the semester.

“We’re also growing the distance learning components of our academic programs [on] Tinian and Rota so students can earn college credits online,” said Fernandez.

She also acknowledged Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig and Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas for their support of the college’s efforts on Rota and Tinian. She also thanked the islands’ delegations for their help.

Earlier this week the college announced that its enrollment for the fall 2017 semester climbed from last year.

According to the college, the number of full-time equivalent students who have enrolled for the fall 2017 semester is 1,168 as of Aug. 21, 2017. This is an increase of more than 6 percent over the same period last year. This figure is expected to rise even more since many students are still registering this week.

NMC is accredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges. ***(NMC)***

TOURIST

From Page 1

531,000 visitors in 2016.

The Palestinian territories and Egypt locked down the top two spots in the world above the CNMI at growth rates of 57.8 percent and 51 percent, respectively.

“As we celebrate 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, we welcome the continued development of tourism and recall that with growth comes increased responsibility to ensure tourism can contribute to sustainability in all its three pillars—economic, social, and environmental. Growth is never the enemy and it is our responsibility to manage it in a sustainable manner,” UNWTO secretary-general Taleb Rifai said.

The UNWTO also reported positive prospects for the May-August period for the world tourism market. According to the organization’s latest press release, the current strong momentum is reflected in the UNWTO Panel of Tourism Experts confidence index.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said the latest ranking is a collective accomplishment for the CNMI.

“The Marianas Visitors Authority is extremely pleased to see the Marianas ranked the third-fastest growing tourist destination in the world by the United Nations World Tourism Organization. This sets us apart from hundreds of competing destinations in our region and from around the world, and we are very honored to be recognized by such a prestigious organization like the UNWTO. We commend all tourism industry stakeholders in the CNMI and abroad for this tremendous accomplishment,” he said.

Concepcion noted that MVA has embarked on an aggressive marketing campaign in all major source countries and are seeing the hard work pay off with the large growth in arrivals the past couple years.

“We will continue our efforts in partnership with all stakeholders in the private and public sectors. We extend our gratitude to Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, Lt. Gov. [Victor B.] Hocog, the Senate, and the House for their continued support and for ensuring the MVA is adequately funded, so that we are able to carry out our mission of promoting the CNMI to the world,” he added.

Torres commended MVA and its tourism partners for their continual work and collaboration.

“This global recognition of our islands is the result of the hard work done by MVA, our hotel partners in HANMI, and our small and large business leaders. I commend all of them and our entire community for making the Marianas one of the most desired tourist destinations in the world,” he said.

Torres noted that the accomplishment is “for all of us to share and that we should not take it for granted.”

“It wasn’t too long ago when our tourism industry was struggling with low arrivals and record low revenue. But our economy has picked up, and people now have more to take care of themselves. This progress we are seeing now is the result of all of us working together to make this happen.” ***(PR)***

ROBBERS

From Page 3

gle, the car dragged the tourist, causing injuries.

According to Blas, it was Rosokow who was the car’s driver and had planned the robbery. Rosokow is Blas’ brother-in-law.

Chief Prosecutor Michele Harris recommended the maximum sentence of six years imprisonment.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski appeared as counsel for Blas, while attorney Rene Holmes represented Rosokow.

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 donate to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. through the CHC Volunteers Association a vein-finding machine to help in the hospital's laboratory.
BEA CABRERA

VFW donates vein-finding machine to hospital

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 on Saipan gave the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday morning a machine that would help its laboratory technicians locate veins in patients.

Members of VFW Post 3457 presented the vein-finding machine to the CHC Volunteers Association, which in turn will present the machine to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

VFA quartermaster Mariano Fajardo said the CHC Volunteers Association had reached out to VFW to ask if it could help them purchase a vein-finder machine that will be useful for dialysis treatment at CHC.

"We at VFA met after we got the [CHC Volunteers Association] letter, we voted on it, and purchased the machine for the hospital," he added.

The vein-finder aids healthcare professionals in finding a good vein for the infusion of medicines and other liquids. It is compact and easy to use and is projected to save valuable time for both nurses and patients.

"We understand that sometimes it is difficult to locate a vein, especially if it's very thin. With the machine, they can do it one time and do the procedure instead of poking the patient again and again, trying to find it," Fajardo said.

Dr. Philip Dauterman, a physician at CHC, received the machine on behalf of the hospital. "We want to thank VFW and the CHC Volunteers for making such a generous donation to the CHC laboratory.

"It will definitely be put to good use for blood collection and blood drawing. With this machine, patients will be in less pain when getting blood collection," he added.

John Oliver Gonzalez, who is president of the CHC Volunteers Association, said it is little things like this that adds up to making the quality of life of people much better.

"This sophisticated medical equipment will help augment the needs of our patients. We are grateful to VFW for graciously donating this important machine," he said.

This is the first collaboration between VFW and the CHC Volunteers Association, but the VFW is not new to community outreach programs.

"The is the first time we've done something like this with CHC but we have been active over the years to help, donate, and give assistance to those in need," Fajardo said.

Guam official says the island is calm despite N. Korea threat

TOKYO (AP)—The lieutenant governor of Guam reassured Japanese on Monday that the U.S. territory is calm amid the recent tension between the U.S. and North Korea.

Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio said at a news conference with the president of the Guam Visitors Bureau in Tokyo that Guam remains in a "state of normalcy."

Japan is a major source of tourists for the Pacific island, with a tourism relationship that has lasted for more than 50 years.

North Korea threatened recently to launch ballistic missiles into waters near Guam. However, leader Kim Jong Un said later that he would watch Washington's conduct before executing the plan.

Meanwhile, Tenorio told reporters that the White House has told Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo that it "is closely watching North Korea and that people on Guam have nothing to worry about."

The U.S. and South Korea began an annual military drill Monday. North Korea typically responds to such exercises with weapons tests, though it is unclear if that would include sending missiles in Guam's direction.

The joint training, which follows North Korea's two intercontinental ballistic missile tests last month, is scheduled to last for 11 days.

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House defeats Senate bid to extend alcohol purchase hours

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill that would have extended the hours to purchase alcohol was ultimately defeated at the House of Representatives, after heated discussions that pitted lawmakers of the same party against one another.

Senate Bill 20-28 came up short on House supporters, defeated on a vote of 7-9.

SB 20-28, authored by Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), had sought to extend the purchasing hours of alcohol from 10pm to 12 midnight.

Reps. Donald B. Barcinas (R-Saipan), Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan), Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan), and House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) voted in favor of the bill.

Reps. Francisco C. Aguon (R-Saipan), Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), Glenn Maratita (R-Saipan), Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), Edwin P. Aldan (R-Saipan), minority leader Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and House vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) voted against it.

Those who voted for the bill argued that businesses should be allowed to sell their products for the duration that they are open. According to Barcinas, the purchase of alcohol is a "personal choice," that he would rather "educate people" on the consequences of alcohol than restrict purchasing times.

Blanco and Sablan both said that if bars and clubs could sell liquor until 4am, there would be very little impact if stores would start selling beyond 10pm as well. Guerrero, who chairs the Commerce and Tourism Committee, argued that the intent of the bill is to cater to tourists and visitors that arrive in the CNMI at "odd hours."

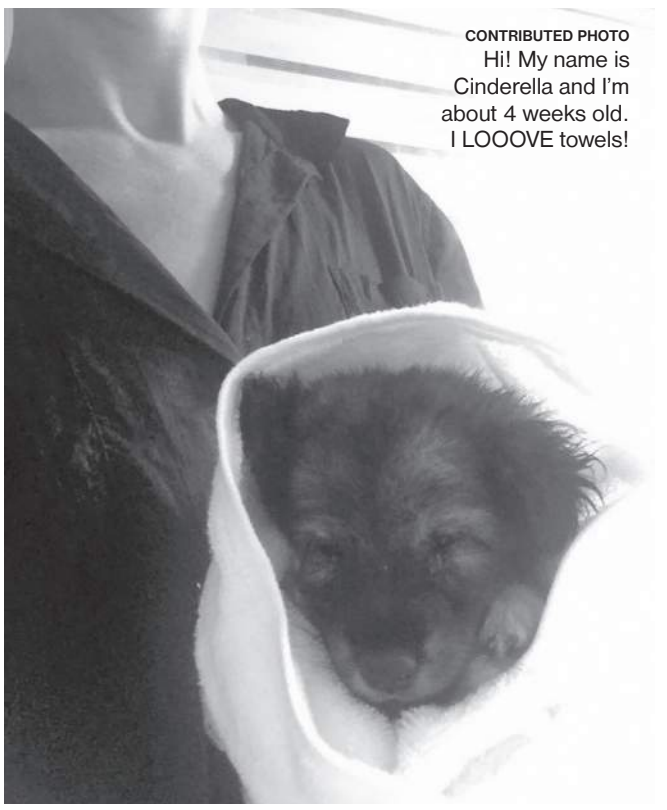
"The bill is more for tourists to purchase alcohol at certain times in the morning," he said in support of the bill.

Propst pointed out that the casino, which is open around the clock, has a bar that sells alcohol 24 hours.

"We are looking at the safety of our people," said Propst.

"If [the bill] is to cater to tourists, we have clubs [that are open] 'til 4am. Go there," said Aldan, adding that the bill is "not good for [their] constituents."

Saipan Cares for Animals saved my life!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hi! My name is Cinderella and I'm about 4 weeks old. I LOOOVE towels!

Hi! My name is Cinderella and I'm about 4 weeks old. I'm probably an Australian shepherd mix puppy.

I was recently found on Tinian. A human named Betsy Weintraub was visiting from Saipan and saw me lying under a picnic bench. At first she thought I was moving around, but realized that I was lying there motionless, with hundreds of ticks crawling on me! Gross! She took me on an airplane to the nice people at Saipan Cares for Animals where they said I had ehrlichia, a tick disease that can be fatal if not treated. They pulled over 300 ticks off of my body!

At the moment, I am blind, but the SCA people think I might be able to see again one day as I regain my strength. They are taking care of me and they hope one day I'll make a full recovery.

All I know is that I would have died under that park bench and the nice people at SCA have given me a chance at life that I otherwise would not have had. And when I visited the Saipan Cares for Animals Community Outreach Center, I saw lots of other dogs and cats who they are also taking care of. What nice humans they are!

While staying with them, I overheard them say they needed something called money. You see, SCA receives no money from the government; they pay for everything themselves! As a thank you for saving me, I would like to invite other humans to donate to their cause and help save more sickly animals like myself. The humans at Saipan Cares for Animals will use this money to help the animals on Saipan (and some of us lucky ones from Tinian).

If you would like to help out, please visit www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com, and click on the "GoFundMe" link that says "Cinderella from Tinian." That's me! Please give them some money so they can continue their efforts!?

Oh yeah, and you can also visit Saipan Cares for Animal on Facebook and do something called "liking" the page (not licking the page…that is what I do!) When you "like" the Facebook page, you'll see updates on me as I recover! Plus, there are lots of other stories on that page about other animals they've saved, dogs and cats that are currently available for adoption, and how SCA can help you!

Thanks Saipan Cares for Animals, for saving my life! ***(As written by Jason Hudy)***

Seven beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged five beaches on Saipan and two on Tinian and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites on Saipan are the Department of Public Works channel bridge, Puerto Rico dump, Hafa Adai drainage No. 2, Garapan fishing dock, Garapan Beach drainage No. 3, and San Antonio Beach. The affected sites on Tinian are the Leprosarium Beach 2 and Unai Chulu.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/FACILITY-22

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 11, 2017 **TIME: 11:00 AM**
BID OPENING DATE: September 11, 2017 **TIME: 1:00 PM**

"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/FACILITY-23

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 11, 2017 **TIME: 11:00AM**
BID OPENING DATE: September 11, 2017 **TIME: 2:00 PM**

"FUEL & LUBRICATION SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/HR-21

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 **TIME: 1:00 PM**
BID OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 **TIME: 1:30 PM**

"PETITION FOR EMPLOYMENT BASED VISA CLASSIFICATION, HUMAN RESOURCE, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFQ PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/CCDF-200

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"TO IMPLEMENT YEAR 2 OF PILOT CNMI QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEMS (1RIS) FOR THE DCCA CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND PROGRAM'S CHILD CARE PROVIDERS"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER AUGUST 11, 2017 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE BUILDING NO. 1347 SAIPAN ON **SEPTEMBER 05, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME.**

ANY QUESTIONS SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA E-MAIL AT ccdf.maribelloste@gmail.com OR BY FAX TO (670) 664-2547 NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 06, 2017**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ PARKER YOBEI
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP17-DFEMS-183

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 07, 2017
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SERVICE BILLINGS FOR AMBULANCE RUNS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE MADE OUT TO LT. JOHN T. BLAS AT (670) 664-9136 OR E-MAIL AT jtblas@dfems.gov.mp NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 29, 2017**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
Commissioner, DFEMS

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Rotary unveils Phase 1 work on Kagman park

Members of the Rotary Club of Saipan, Interact Club of Saipan, and the Rotary district governor all pose for a picture during the Kagman Park soft opening yesterday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Phase II of the construction of the Kagman Community Park has been put on hold until the necessary funding is granted to the Rotary Club of Saipan through the local housing agency's Community Development Block Grant program.

The park was initiated by the local Rotary Club over seven months ago. The group decided that it was financially easier to split the entire park project into two phases.

Half of Phase I was funded through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s CDBG and the second half was funded by the Rotary Club itself.

Unfortunately, the recent grant application submitted by the Rotary Club to initiate Phase II work was denied.

According to the Rotary Club president Thomson Thornburgh, he recently learned that the grant application they had submitted had been denied.

Although Thornburgh assures the public that they will continue to re-submit applications for the grant, it is still indefinite as to when they will get the necessary funding to carry out Phase II.

The leaders of the Saipan Interact Club, the Rotary Club of Saipan, and the Rotary district governor pose for a picture yesterday during the Kagman Community Park soft opening.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Phase II includes the sidewalks and equipment that can be used by adults.

Fortunately, Phase I of the Kagman Community Park has been completed. The Rotary Club had a soft opening yesterday, featuring the group's district governor, Masamori Sawatari.

Although finishing touches were still being made to the park yesterday, the group pressed ahead with the soft opening as a means of celebrating the visit of the district governor.

They were joined by a few of the Interact Club members from each of the high schools: Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Saipan Southern High school.

The Interact Club members took part in the tree planting ceremony with Sawatari and his companions.

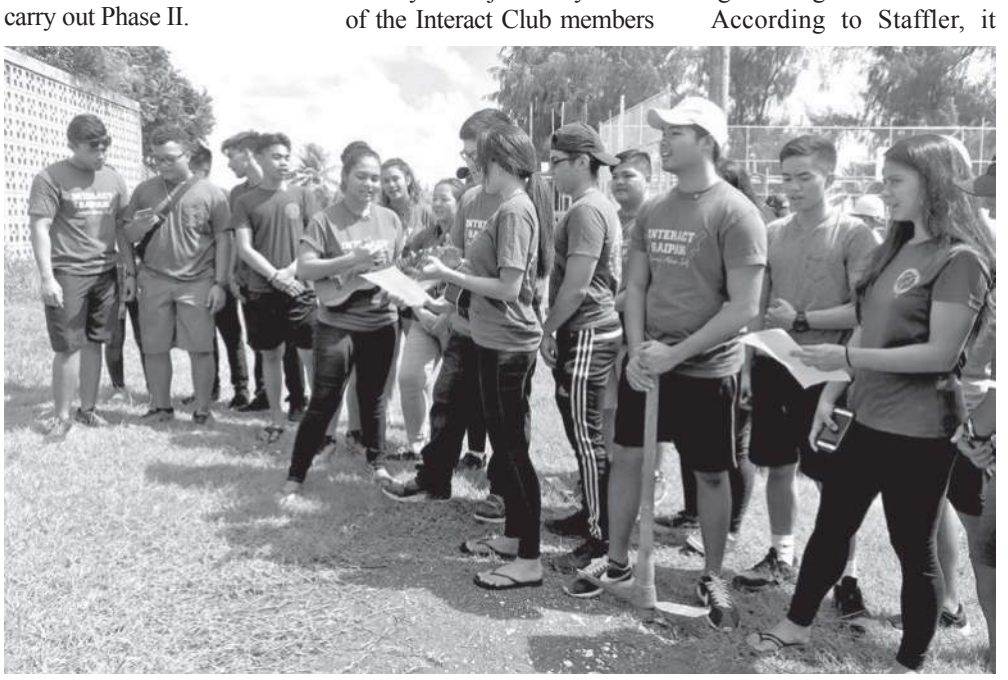
The high school students even sang an original composition for Sawatari and company.

Kagman High School principal Leila Staffler was present during the soft opening to accompany the Interact Club members from Kagman High School.

According to Staffler, it was a great idea for the Rotary Club to build a park right next to the Kagman Community Center because students now have a centralized place for positive and healthy activities.

Staffler encourages those who would use the park to help maintain it. "Respect is really highly valued in our home, community and culture. This is another area we consider part of our Kagman home, if you are a part of the Kagman community, treat this place how you would treat your home," she said.

Solar powered light posts at the newly built Kagman Community Park surround the park.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Interact Club of Saipan sings an original composition during the soft opening of the Kagman Community Park yesterday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2017 Third General Membership Meeting on Friday, August 25, 2017 at the Pacific Islands Club-Charley's Cabaret (Saipan) from 3:30 pm – 5:30 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Roll Call**
III. **Review and Adoption of Agenda of August 25, 2017**
IV. **Review and Adoption of FY 2017 Second General Membership Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2017**
V. **Reports**
  a. SRC Chairperson
  b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
  c. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
  d. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
  e. OVR Director
VI. **Old Business**
  a. Approved SRC By-Laws 6/01/2017
VII. **New Business**
  a. Pre-Employment Transition Services
  b. Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month (DDEAM)
  c. Wheelchair Clinic-Seating and Mobility Training
VIII. **Consumer Forum**
IX. **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
X. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ ELIZABETH S. ADA, Chairperson

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

Green Gala snags Docomo as emerald sponsor

To underscore its commitment to conservation efforts in the CNMI, Docomo Pacific Saipan recently signed on as an emerald sponsor for Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Green Gala.

The gala is slated for Friday, Sept. 15, 2017, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Docomo's sponsorship totals more than $5,000 in cash and in-kind prizes for the silent auction at the Green Gala.

"We are committed to doing our part in conserving the CNMI's natural resources, and will do everything we can to support MINA in their efforts to continue with their mission of conservation in our islands," said Dino Manning, general manager of Docomo Pacific Saipan. "We look forward to this year's Green Gala, and partnering with MINA is one of the ways in which Docomo Pacific is dedicated to keeping our islands clean."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Docomo Pacific Saipan officials and employees led by general manager Dino Manning pose with Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance officials and members.

As the leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA continues to foster the culture of recycling through its Adopt-A-Bin Project, which has placed recycling bins in all major beaches around the island, as well as its Tasi Watch Program, Marine Debris, and Schools for Environmental Conservation, among other programs, that reach out to the community in building awareness for a sustainable, pollution-free environment for future generations.

"Our organization is supported by project grants and generous contributions from local businesses and community members," said Somia Quan, vice president of MINA's board of directors, "and we are extremely thankful for Docomo's contribution to this year's Green Gala. Docomo's valuable support will help MINA continue the work we do in advocating protection of our fragile island environment, from the land to the sea, and we are thankful for their generosity."

"In addition to the 'Farm to Table' theme, the evening promises lively entertainment, local brews, wines and spirits, highlights from MINA's numerous projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promises a memorable evening," said Quan.

Last year's Green Gala was sold out, so organizers are encouraging those who plan to attend to buy their tickets early. Tickets for the Green Gala can be purchased at the MINA office in Gualo Rai or from any of the volunteer board members.

To become a sponsor of the Green Gala, contact 233-REEF (7333) or email minaoutreach@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Youth learn about NCDs in Noumea workshop

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Youth from Pacific Island countries and territories have gathered in Noumea, New Caledonia this week for a five-day media and communications training on noncommunicable diseases, or NDCs.

The training, organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the United Nations Development Program Pacific Office in Fiji, with funding support from the Fond Pacific (France), developed the competence of youth groups from the Pacific ranging from 15-25 years old.

Young people from Fiji, New Zealand, Tonga, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna, French Polynesia and New Caledonia were selected through a competitive process requiring them to submit film project ideas about NCDs. This week's workshop provided an opportunity for each group to refine their stories ideas and provide some guidance on promotion and marketing.

Once competed, each film will be disseminated though social media and used as advocacy and health promotion material in the region.

A group of public health and media professionals will be following and supporting each group throughout the life of the project.

While the groups came from across the Pacific, they were united in their passion for tackling the challenge of NDC's.

According to Jaimeem Kenni from Vanuatu, "People in general do not consider noncommunicable diseases a youth issue [and] that's a mistake! We are all affected one way or another. We need to be part of the solution."

Dr. Paula Vivili, director of Public Health Division at SPC, highlighted the importance of bringing a spotlight to NCDs and noted the relevance and the value of having this message delivered by the region's youth: "The fact is that risk factors now develop at a younger age and, increasingly, diseases like diabetes and even heart diseases affect young people in this region. It is essential to engage youth in the response and not just as an audience of prevention messages but as active participants and partners of that prevention."

Reflecting on the complexity of NCDs, Ferdinand Strobel, the Health and Development adviser for the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, reiterated the importance of a consolidated approach to combating one of the region's most leading causes of death.

"NCDs are driven by the consumption of unhealthy products like tobacco, alcohol and junk food, which are heavily promoted to the younger generation," said Strobel.

"The rise of NCDs—just like climate change—results from an unsustainable development pathway," said Strobel. "We need to change that. It is everyone's business to get involved and the time is now because the risk factors of today are the diseases of tomorrow."

Non-communicable diseases constitute the leading cause of premature death and pose a formidable development challenge for the 21st century.

The challenge is particularly relevant in the Pacific region, which suffers from some of the highest NDC rates in the world. ***(PR)***

Marianas Legal Strategy Group signs on as Green Gala sponsor

MINA announced yesterday the emerald sponsorship of Marianas Legal Strategy Group for this year's Green Gala, scheduled for Sept. 15, starting at 6pm, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

"The Marianas Legal Strategy Group is proud to back MINA in its mission of protecting our island environment through financial contribution and the provision of legal services," said Sean Frink of MLSG. "We look forward to working with the wonderful people at MINA for many years to come and assisting them and our community in preserving and protecting our beautiful Northern Mariana Islands. We also look forward to the Green Gala celebration and urge everyone interested in protecting our environment to attend."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Marcia K. Schultz, Sean E. Frink, and Catherine Cachero-Seman are attorneys of the Marianas Legal Strategy Group.

Roberta Guerrero, MINA executive director, thanked MLSG on behalf of the MINA board of directors and staff: "It's really exciting to have sponsors on board with MINA for our fundraising efforts, and particularly in knowing that they believe in our efforts and the conservation outreach programs that MINA administers throughout the year. Marianas Legal Strategy Group's participation in this event as an emerald sponsor is greatly appreciated." ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at Outer Apra Harbor, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct dive training in waters near Guam, west of Apra Harbor within a five-mile nautical radius on the following dates and times:

- Aug. 24-27, from 5pm to 3am
- Aug. 29 to Sept. 5, from 10am to midnight

The U.S. military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla tomorrow, Aug. 25, from 7:30am to 1pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile outreach on Saipan on Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Class of 1987 gears up for 30-year reunion

The Marianas High School Class of 1987 will be having its 30th year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

Free cat adoption month

Saipan's animal welfare group, Saipan Cares for Animals, is hosting a free cat adoption month until the end of August. All cat and kitten adoptions are free until the end of the month on Aug. 31. Call Beth at 285-5448 or visit www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com to find out more. You can also visit Saipan Cares for Animals on Facebook for directions on how to get there! ***(CSA)***

Saturday Story Time at AMP

Youth of all ages are invited to join the American Memorial Park on Saturday, Aug. 26, from 2pm to 3pm, for story time. During the hour, read *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr. Following the reading, everyone will be invited to make paper cranes, just like Sadako did in the story. The paper cranes will be folded and sent to the Children's Peace Memorial in Hiroshima Japan. To learn more about this program or other happenings at the park, contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

SIS hosts Korea musical group in ESL Camp

Saipan International School played host last month to 18 students from South Korea, who came here to take part in an ESL (English as a Second Language) Camp at SIS.

The Korean students, from grades 2 to 9, improved their English language skills, learned new games like kickball, sang and danced in English, and much more.

They also learned about the beauty of the CNMI with field trips to the beach, and interactive presentation by Mallory Muña and Jihan Buniag from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

Sid Seman, director of the Office of Personnel Management, presents the students with certificates of participation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Korean students, from grades 2 to 9, made *mwars* at the Koconut-ville farm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This student learns to feed a goat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Liz Church, right, of the Saipan International School poses with Grade 5 students.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The cast of of *Snow White* and the *Three Little Pigs* show off their certificate of participation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The students also visited historical and geographical sites on Saipan and had a great day at the Koconut-ville farm where they made *mwars*, cooked coconut candy, sampled fruits, and got to see some animals.

In the evening, the students worked with their teachers from Korea and local children to develop a musical performance of *Snow White* and the *Three Little Pigs*. This performance was the culminating activity of the trip and took place in the new ESL suite at SIS. In attendance were members of the Saipan and SIS community.

The evening saw many laughs and good times and finished with a special certificate presented to the students by Sid Seman, director of the Office of Personnel Management.

"Thanks to Mr. Ron and all the support from SIS so that we could experience lots of thing [on] Saipan. Things were so nice and this was a precious moment for me," said the group's lead teacher, Jinny Cha of U.S. Pacific Ltd.

The group hopes to expand their tour offerings in the future, bringing in many children to experience the truly special place that is Saipan and the CNMI.

One of the students, Gyu Min "William" Shin, "I miss Saipan already." ***(PR)***

The ESL campers have their picture taken at the Koconut-ville farm where they made *mwars*, cooked coconut candy, sampled fruits, and got to see some animals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The campers learned how to make coconut candy at the Koconut-ville farm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The ESL campers learn how to weave *mwars* at the Koconut-ville farm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Condemn, but protect, the speech of hate

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution means nothing if its highest ideals are not staunchly protected during times of unrest. It means nothing if we reconsider—or undermine—the principles embedded in those words when public hate is on the rise and the purveyors of that hatred turn it into a weapon.

The First Amendment wasn't crafted to be used only by those we deem good and righteous or in times of unity and prosperity. It was written because the Founders knew strife was going to be a feature of our form of democracy, and the most tempting way to re-establish calm and comfort would be to silence those we think ugly and unworthy of the unalienable rights bestowed upon us.

White supremacists and nationalists deserve First Amendment protections, too. Just as we thought it ill-advised when the Trump administration coyly floated the idea of gutting the First Amendment because the president didn't like news coverage, we think it is equally inadvisable to even toy with the notion of rolling back free speech protections, a notion that has at least some support in the ACLU and progressive communities in the wake of Charlottesville. As vile as they are—racial epithets and "Jews will not replace us" were among the many things they said—there should be no white supremacist exception to the First Amendment.

That's why we found it questionable last week when the ACLU announced it wouldn't defend the free speech rights of white supremacists who legally carried weapons at rallies.

At issue, however, is more than the letter of the First Amendment, which is focused on the legal limits the government faces regarding speech. We are talking about its spirit, which is designed to foment a robust exchange of ideas to strengthen this country. That means even private institutions and organizations should consider the ramifications before firing employees because of unpopular speech, and it means those involved in the Antifa movement, which is purportedly a vanguard against the rise of white supremacy, must honor it as well. Violence and threats of violence should be neither encouraged nor tolerated.

This is not easy. But the First Amendment has served us well. We should do nothing to dilute its power.

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YOU'RE A GREAT COMEDIAN, BUT THE RED CARPET IS BECAUSE OF YOUR PHILANTHROPY.
JERRY LEWIS
DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/LVAS 2017
LasVegasSun
MIKE SMITH

USS *Indianapolis* discovery offers opportunity to recall true heroism

By REX HUPPKE
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune*. Readers may email him at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.*

Lost in coverage of the eclipse and the day-to-day deluge of politics and partisanship was a remarkable discovery, one that should, at the very least, offer some perspective.

On Saturday, naval researchers announced that wreckage from the USS *Indianapolis*—a World War II cruiser sunk by a Japanese submarine in 1945—had been found more than three miles deep in the Philippine Sea.

Near the end of the war, the *Indianapolis* ran a top secret mission to an island in the Pacific Ocean, delivering parts that would be used in the atomic bomb that was eventually dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

AP

This undated image from a remotely operated underwater vehicle courtesy of Paul G. Allen, shows wreckage of the USS Indianapolis, including the ship's bell at the bottom of the North Pacific Ocean.

AP

File photo, taken on July 10, 1945, provided by U.S. Navy media content operations, shows the USS Indianapolis (CA 35) off the Mare Island Navy Yard, in Northern California, after her final overhaul and repair of combat damage.

Returning to the Philippines, the ship was torpedoed and sank. There were 1,196 sailors and Marines on board. About 800 survived the initial strikes and sinking, but after four days adrift in shark-infested waters, some on rafts, some floating with life preservers, only 317 survived. It was and has remained the Navy's worst disaster at sea.

There have been searches for the wreckage off and on since the *Indianapolis* went down, to no avail. But finally, a team led by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen found her, including a piece of the hull with a white "35" still visible, after scouring a 600-square-mile area of open sea.

Allen's website quotes Capt. William Toti, spokesman for the survivors of the *Indianapolis*: "For more than two decades I've been working with the survivors. To a man, they have longed for the day when their ship would be found, solving their final mystery." He said the site is now a war memorial and called it "one of the most tangible manifestations of the pain and sacrifice of our World War II veterans."

I spoke with Edgar Harrell, a 92-year-old survivor of the *Indianapolis* who now lives in Tennessee, and he said he got a call from Toti not long after the discovery was made: "I said, 'Praise the lord.' And then from there I've been inundated with calls and emails."

See USS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Protecting your privacy: Phone and cable records

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" outlines the Federal Communications Commission's guidance on how to protect the privacy of your phone and cable records.

In a time when numerous entities collect and store personal information, you want to make sure your information is secure. The FCC has regulatory programs in place to protect your privacy.

Protecting your telephone calling records

Local, long distance, and wireless phone companies, as well as IP service providers, collect certain customer information, such as the numbers you call and when you call them. They also track the services you use, such as call-forwarding or voicemail. The companies may use, disclose, or permit access to this information in these circumstances:

- As required by law;
- With your approval; and
- While providing the service for which the customer information was obtained.

Your telephone company may only release your customer information to you upon request, with certain protections:

- Password for phone or online requests; or
- Valid photo identification if your request is made in-person.

Additionally, your telephone company must:

- Confirm any new or changed password, back-up for a forgotten password, online account, or an address of record;
- Obtain your approval to use your customer information for marketing;
- Maintain accurate records regarding disclosure of your customer information to third parties along with your approval; and
- Submit to the FCC an annual summary of all consumer complaints received regarding unauthorized release of customer information and certify it is compliant with FCC rules.

Protecting your customer information

- Ask your service provider for details about how it protects the confidentiality of your customer information.
- Carefully read your telephone bill and any other notices you receive from your service provider. Determine if your service provider is seeking opt-in or opt-out permission to use or share your customer information for marketing, and make your choice clear to your service provider. Your choice is valid until you inform your service provider otherwise.
- If you use a password when contacting your service provider to obtain your customer information, avoid using any sensitive or readily apparent information, such as your social security number.

Remember, customer information rules apply to all telephone companies:

- Local;
- Long distance;
- Wireless; and
- VoIP

Make your customer information choices known to each company.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program (a.k.a. "The Consumer Caution Corner") shares Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture, or FCC publications to promote education and awareness among the community while also enabling consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair and deceptive trade practices and other marketplace schemes.

If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request a form by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint form, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization.

We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

LITERARY NOOK

Father's Sins and Dumpster Bins

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Father's Sins and Dumpster Bins

taking a walk in a hotel alley owned by Donald Trump
being able to recognize, keep, reject and or dismiss
anything good or that which belongs in the dump
I found some well worn hats of pride and prejudice
junked speeches and twaddling Tweets lay in big piles
broken pieces of a large mirror on a faux gold table
reflecting narcissistic fractured images and smiles
here father and sons posed and studied Cain & Abel
Gramp arrested, son equivocates on friends of the Klan
neo-Nazis searching for white nationalist nourishment
rats scurry down the alley what's their fascistic future plan
when Mueller's done what's the crime and punishment
Trumpty Dumpty loves watching movies starring Grinch
he just can't seem to buy a good lawyer like Atticus Finch

Reigns of Terror and Thermonuclear Rains

God of all love, reason, and common sense please forbid
that Kim Young Dumb's nascent nuke arsenal goes awry
and leaves the Korean peninsula in any compass direction
let us pray despite his bombast that he will never even try
if one missile heads for Russia or China by some mistake
there will be no need to duck heads or go to bomb shelters
North Korea will feel bombs quake no one left for a wake
the world will prepare for thermonuclear rain helter skelter
then the Fantastic Bombastic Terrible Two's saber rattling
will be all but moot as a reign of nuclear holocaust begins
citizens of many nations will die not knowing who is battling
tens thousand years later we'll still pay for two tyrants sins
a sad assessment of a tragic serious final solution situation
pray all countries sit down together for sensible negotiation

Bannon Back to Selling Brightfart T-shirts

Brightfart welcomes back Baked Potato Head Steve Bannon
they hung up a banner for Bannon calling him a 'populist hero'
now no longer a rogue White House wandering loose cannon
don't break your brain blister Brightfart owner Mr. Steve Zero
Brightfart's a prime location of false news and much worser
the alt-right finds this conservative news source hard to resist
it is funded by a billionaire business man named Bob Mercer
known as a kooky believer of political conspiracies theorist
Mercer is starting an outside the Beltway movement with Bannon
their first big move with alt-right is scheduled to begin this fall
Bannon who says he's got his weapons back will be official cannon
they will be resuscitating attempts to build Trump's Mexican wall
Bannon's false pride has got to be in a big sad world of hurts
since he's back to selling Brightfart Wall Construction tee shirts

Trumpty Dumpty Ruble Baron of Bling

how wealthy is Trumpty we'll never know
for years his tax returns he refuses to reveal
his Goldman Sachs team continues to grow
his children will all help him legally steal
he hears the distant Russian ruble call
he sees and reads the covered up reply
his impatience frustrates one and all
we know his fall from the wall is nigh
baby boy with hair sprayed so yellow
tweeting tantrums morning noon and night
all the Blings men can't make him mellow
filling America and the world with fright
Trumpty's yolk broke his brain is scrambled
too long his incoherent Tweets have rambled

USS

From Page 10

Harrell is one of only 19 living survivors, and like many of them, he has worked hard to keep the story of the *Indianapolis* and its crew alive, even authoring a book about the tragedy titled *Out of the Depths*.

I think that's how the mission continued for many of these sailors and Marines. They survived unimaginable conditions at sea, watched their brothers in arms pulled under by sharks or die of dehydration, and were finally rescued after a bomber pilot on patrol spotted them.

The war ended soon after, and the sinking of the *Indianapolis* was somewhat lost in all the stories of World War II. But people like Harrell never gave up hope that the ship would be found.

"It's great news, just to know that it has been located," Harrell said. "And yes, it brings some closure to the saga."

He added this: "But it fails to change any outcome of the disaster and the trauma of that experience."

And that's where I think we get some perspective.

The sailors and Marines aboard the *Indianapolis*, like all who fought in World War II and all who have worn a uniform and served since, were willing to die for this country. And more than 800 of them did, while the rest survived conditions I can't begin to imagine.

That's bravery. And sacrifice. And true patriotism.

Matt Bierzychudek is a project strategist with U.S. Bank in Chicago and the grandson of a late *Indianapolis* survivor. He has a sleeve tattoo covering most of his left arm, all dedicated to the *Indianapolis*—to the ship, and the sea and the men on board.

He recalls hearing stories about the tragedy and seeing how the *Indianapolis* was such a huge part of his grandfather's life.

"I think he was proud," Bierzychudek said. "He was proud to have served his country. My grandparents were both extremely patriotic. That was their lives, talking about the *Indianapolis*."

He continued: "These are guys as young as 17—some had even lied about their age to serve their country. My grandfather was from Chicago, went to San Francisco and saw the ship; it was the biggest thing he had ever seen. It wasn't about politics at that time; it wasn't about hating the enemy. It was about protecting and serving your country. And a lot of them made the ultimate sacrifice. And he just never gave up. They were in the water and never knew if the rescue would come, and he just never gave up hope."

Bierzychudek's mother hadn't been born yet when the *Indianapolis* went down: "Had he not survived, I wouldn't have been here."

We all owe something to people like Bierzychudek's grandfather, and to Harrell and to the men of the *Indianapolis* who didn't survive. They're a reminder of what binds this country together, and of the things that make it worth fighting for in the first place.

I hope the discovery of the wreckage of that ship raises interest in that tragic moment and in the sacrifices that were made.

But I also hope Americans can pause a moment, as we wade through our troubles and divisions and daily dramas, to gain some perspective on life, on honor and on who we decide to call our heroes.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Isolated thunderstorms by evening. east winds 5 to 10 mph.
▲90° ▼79°

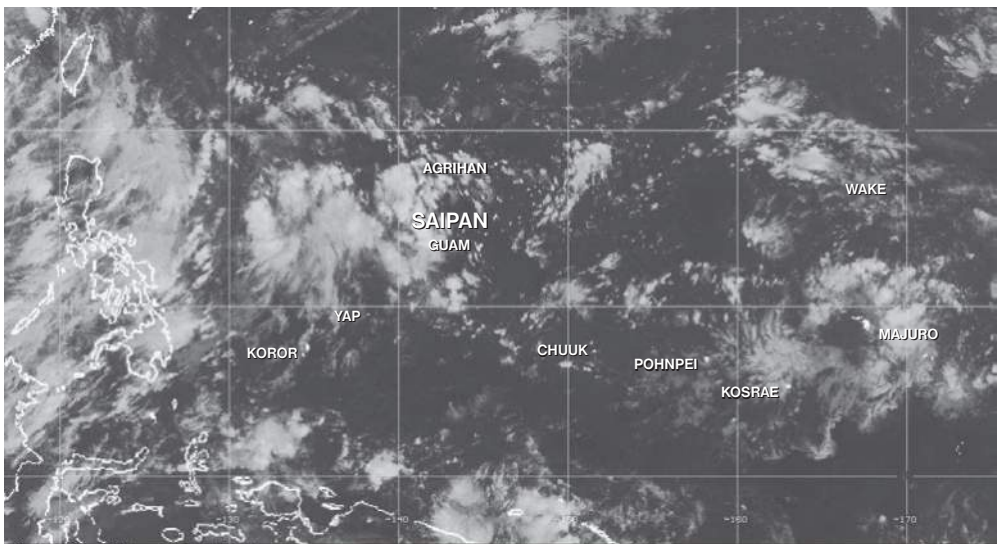
FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.
▲89° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲90° ▼79°

SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms in the morning, then isolated showers in the afternoon.
▲90° ▼79°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲90° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:45 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Some drier air is expected to move in today, though guidance has instability and vertical motion this afternoon, which could yet trigger thunderstorms. Surface ridging and eventually upper ridging does build in for Thursday, and if there was to be a period of no thunder, this would be it, but confidence is low. Then, another surface trough and upper low moves north of the area Thursday night into Friday. This time period looks to be the next increased chance of showers and thunderstorms. There could be a break on Saturday, before another low/trough on Sunday. Finally, drier air appear to move in later Sunday into early next week. Seas remain relatively quiet, generally 2 to 3 feet with primary swell out of the east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	88° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	61° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	88° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	79° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	81° / 64°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 81°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	79° / 59°
Busan	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 66°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	82° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:27 AM	LOW TIDE	0.65
8:52 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.94
3:41 PM	LOW TIDE	0.03
9:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.94

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:02 AM	8:30 PM	-
Friday	8:55 AM	9:12 PM	-
Saturday	9:45 AM	9:53 PM	-
Sunday	10:35 AM	10:34 PM	-
Monday	6:11 AM	7:01 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO424:50pm	12:05am+1		2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

TO DISCUSS RENEGOTIATION OF FTA

S. Korea says no to US request

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's top trade negotiator said Tuesday that Seoul will not discuss renegotiation of the free trade agreement with the U.S. without first looking into what is really causing the U.S. trade imbalance.

Speaking after a video conference with U.S. trade representative Robert Lighthizer, South Korean Trade Minister Kim Hyung-chong said Seoul proposed a joint study with Washington to evaluate the impact of the 5-year-old bilateral trade deal and the cause of the U.S. trade deficit.

"We did not agree to the unilateral proposal from the U.S. to amend the Korea-U.S. FTA," Kim told reporters in a briefing after a talk with U.S. trade representatives. "We made our position clear that investigation, analysis and evaluation of the impact of the Korea-U.S. FTA must be preceded."

The two sides found they had different views on the impact of the free trade deal and could not reach any agreement during the talks, he added. Kim said Seoul will be waiting for Washington's response to its proposal for the joint study.

The countries' trade officials held their first talks in Seoul, in what Washington hoped would lead to discussing amendment or modification of the trade deal that took effect five years ago under President Barack Obama.

The U.S. trade official said discussions will continue.

"Unfortunately, too many American workers have not benefited from the agreement," Ambassador Lighthizer said in a statement posted on the USTR website. "President Trump is committed to substantial improvements in the Korean agreement that address the trade imbalance and ensure that the deal is fully implemented."

The Trump administration criticized the pact with its ally, saying that the U.S. trade deficit with South Korea had doubled since the deal went into effect. The U.S. trade deficit with South Korea widened from $13.2 billion in 2011 to $27.6 billion last year.

But South Korea said the deal has been beneficial to both countries. The U.S. runs a trade surplus with South Korea in services such as banking and tourism, estimated at $10.7 billion in 2016. South Korea also believes that the FTA is not the cause of the U.S. trade imbalance, and that other, complex factors in the global economy are to blame.

The Trump administration is seeking to renegotiate the trade deal with South Korea as part of its broader efforts to reduce the U.S. trade deficit. It has begun an effort to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada.

South Korea is the sixth-largest trading partner for the U.S., while the U.S. is South Korea's second-largest trading partner.

Walmart dives into voice-activated shopping with Google

NEW YORK (AP)—Walmart is diving into voice-activated shopping. But unlike online leader Amazon, it's not doing it alone.

The world's largest retailer said Wednesday it's working with Google to offer hundreds of thousands of items from laundry detergent to Legos for voice shopping through Google Assistant. The capability will be available in late September.

It's Google's biggest retail partnership—and the most personalized shopping experience it offers—as it tries to broaden the reach of its voice-powered assistant Home speaker. And it underscores Walmart's drive to compete in an area dominated by Amazon's Alexa-powered Echo device.

"Voice shopping is becoming a more important part of everyday shopping behavior," said Marc Lore, CEO of Walmart's U.S. e-commerce business.

The voice-activated devices are becoming more mainstream as they become more accessible. Even Apple has one coming out this year. Walmart has said Google's investment in natural language processing and artificial intelligence will help make voice-activated shopping even more popular.

And Lore said the personalization of the partnership means people can shout out generic items like milk, bread and cheese, and Google Assistant will know exactly the brands and the size that the user wants.

Google introduced shopping to Home in February, letting people use voice to order essentials from more than 40 retailers like Target and Costco under its Google Express program. But that was far behind the Echo, available since late 2014.

Walmart, which has more stores than any other retailer and the largest share of the U.S. grocery market, is also working hard to close the gulf online between itself and Amazon.

It has overhauled its shipping strategy and is expanding store-curb pickup for groceries ordered online. But it's also had to look beyond itself and form partnerships. Walmart announced Monday that it's expanding its grocery delivery service with ride-hailing service Uber, and it's been testing same-day delivery service with Deliv at Sam's Club in Miami.

Amazon generally has been building its network of services on its own, using its $99-a-year Prime membership with same-day and even one-hour shipping options to develop loyalty.

It's also been drawing in customers with its Alexa-powered devices. Amazon doesn't give sales figures for Echo, but Consumer Intelligence Research Partners estimated that it's sold more than 10 million Alexa-powered Echo devices in the U.S. since late 2014. That includes the core $179 Echo as well as the less expensive and smaller Echo Dot and the portable Amazon Tap.

To be more competitive with Amazon, Google Express is scrapping the $95-a-year membership starting Wednesday, allowing shoppers to get free delivery within one to three days on orders as long as the purchase is above each store's minimum.

Walmart is integrating its Easy Reorder feature—which has data on both store and online purchases—into Google Express. Shoppers who want to reorder their favorites have to link their Walmart account to Google Express.

With other Google Express retailers, personalization takes time as the assistant learns shoppers' preferences, says Brian Elliott, general manager of Google Express. So the quick personalization with Walmart should make voice-activated shopping more attractive, he says.

While one of Walmart's biggest advantages over Amazon is its massive number of stores, Amazon's nearly $14 billion offer for Whole Foods could shake up the landscape.

Nation

Media to blame for condemnation of comments on Virginia—Trump

PHOENIX (AP)—President Donald Trump blamed the media Tuesday for the widespread condemnation of his response to a Charlottesville, Virginia, protest organized by white supremacists that led to the killing of a counter-protester.

AP

President Donald Trump reacts before speaking at a rally at the Phoenix Convention Center, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017, in Phoenix.

Trump opened his political rally in Phoenix with a call for unity, saying, "What happened in Charlottesville strikes at the core of America and tonight, this entire arena stands united in forceful condemnation of the thugs that perpetrated hatred and violence."

But he quickly trained his ire on the media, shouting that he "openly called for healing unity and love" in the immediate aftermath of Charlottesville and claiming the media had misrepresented him. He read from his three responses to the violence—getting more animated with each one.

■■■

PHOENIX (AP)—A day of noisy but largely peaceful protests of President Donald Trump's speech in Phoenix turned unruly as police fired pepper spray at crowds after someone apparently lobbed rocks and bottles at officers.

A haze enveloped the night sky Tuesday as protesters and police clashed outside the convention center where Trump had just wrapped up his speech. People fled the scene coughing as an officer in a helicopter bellowed through a speaker urging protesters to leave the area.

Officers responded with pepper spray to break up the crowd after people tossed rocks and bottles and dispersed gas, Phoenix police spokesman Jonathan Howard said. It was not immediately known if there were injuries or arrests.

The disturbance didn't start until after the speech had ended. A contingent of protesters stayed behind after the clash with police had ended. Their numbers were small.

Authorities were on high alert as thousands of people lined up in the triple-digit heat to attend Trump's first political rally since the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. Protesters filled the streets of downtown Phoenix and engaged in shouting matches and a few minor scuffles with Trump supporters, but those events were generally peaceful.

■■■

"You know where my heart is," Trump said. "I'm only doing this to show you how damned dishonest these people are."

After the rally, a day of noisy but largely peaceful protests outside the Phoenix convention center turned unruly as police fired pepper spray at crowds after someone apparently lobbed rocks and bottles at officers.

Trump spoke after Vice President Mike Pence and others called repeatedly for unity.

Housing Secretary Ben Carson and Dr. Alveda King, the niece of civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr., were among the openers. Franklin Graham, son of the evangelist Billy Graham, led the rally-goers in prayer, saying, "We're divided racially, and we're adrift morally."

Trump teased a pardon for former sheriff Joe Arpaio, asking the crowd what they thought of him. Loud cheers erupted. The former Maricopa County sheriff is awaiting sentencing after his conviction in federal court for disobeying court orders to stop his immigration patrols.

"So was Sheriff Joe convicted for doing his job?" Trump asked. "I'll make a prediction: I think he's going to be just fine."

Earlier, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump wouldn't discuss or take action on a pardon "at any point today," even though the president had told Fox News he was considering it.

Trump said at the rally that the only reason he wouldn't pardon Arpaio from the stage was to avoid controversy for the moment.

In the comfort of his most fervent fans, Trump often resurrects his free-wheeling 2016 campaign style, pinging insults at perceived enemies such as the media and meandering from topic to topic without a clear theme. Although Trump's high-profile warm-up acts suggested the president's speech would be about unity, the president was more intent on settling scores. And the tone of the event took on a combative tone.

At one point, the president threatened to shut down the federal government unless Congress, mired in gridlock over spending bills, agrees to provide funding for the border wall he wants to have built between the United States and Mexico.

Trump told the crowd, he said he has a message for "obstructionist" Democrats. "If we have to close down our government, we're building that wall."

He skewered both of Arizona's Republican senators—but coyly refused to mention their names, describing his own restraint as "very presidential."

Instead, Trump bemoaned that the Senate was only "one vote away" from passing a health care overhaul. Sen. John McCain, who is undergoing treatment for an aggressive form of brain cancer, voted against a Republican health care bill.

Trump called another unnamed senator "weak on borders, weak on crime." Trump has lashed out at Sen. Jeff Flake, a frequent critic, using the same language in the past.

The president tweeted last week: "Great to see that Dr. Kelli Ward is running against Flake, who is WEAK on borders, crime and a non-factor in Senate. He's toxic!" Flake has been on tour promoting his book that says the Republican Party's embrace of Trump has left conservatism withering.

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Asia

US officials: Navy 7th Fleet commander to be removed

TOKYO (AP)—The commander of the Navy's 7th Fleet will be removed after a series of warship accidents in the Pacific this year, two U.S. officials said Wednesday.

One official said that Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin was being removed because of the leadership's loss of confidence in his ability to command. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the decision.

The move follows four Navy accidents in the Pacific since late January, including two that left sailors dead and missing.

"While each of these four incidents is unique, they cannot be viewed in isolation," Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott Swift said late Tuesday. The Navy previously announced a broad review of the Japan-based 7th Fleet's performance in light of the incidents.

Seven sailors died in June after the USS Fitzgerald collided with a container ship off Japan. On Monday, the USS John S. McCain collided with an oil tanker off Singapore, injuring five sailors and leaving 10 others missing.

Swift said at a news conference in Singapore, where the McCain is now docked, that Navy divers had found remains of some of the missing in a flooded compartment in the ship. He also said that Malaysian officials had found a body, but it had not been determined if it was a McCain crew member.

At least three of the 10 missing sailors have been identified by family.

U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis said McCain crew member Logan Palmer is from the Decatur, Illinois, area and his mother identified him as missing.

April Brandon in Michigan said the military informed her that her son, Ken Smith, is missing. She said Smith's father, stepmother and grandfather served in the Navy. Brandon said, "His father and I couldn't be prouder of our son."

The family of Jacob Drake of Ohio was told he was among the missing, the Columbus Dispatched reported. Megan Partlow told The Associated Press that Drake was her fiancee and she'd last had contact with him Sunday in a text message.

The decision to remove Aucoin was first reported by The Wall Street Journal. He assumed command of the 7th Fleet in September 2015. The Navy fleet is based in Yokosuka, Japan.

The pre-dawn collision tore a gaping hole in the McCain's left rear hull and flooded adjacent compartments including crew berths and machinery and communication rooms.

There were two lesser-known incidents in the first half of the year. In January, the USS Antietam guided missile cruiser ran aground near Yokosuka base, the home port of the 7th Fleet, and in May another cruiser, the USS Lake Champlain from the Navy's 3rd Fleet, had a minor collision with a South Korean fishing boat.

N. Korea photos suggest new solid-fuel missile designs

TOKYO (AP)—North Korea's state media released photos Wednesday that appear to show the designs of one or possibly two new missiles.

Concept diagrams of the missiles were seen hanging on a wall behind leader Kim Jong Un while he visited a plant that makes solid-fuel engines for the country's ballistic-missile program.

One of the photos clearly showed a diagram for a missile called "Pukguksong-3," which appears to be the latest in its Pukguksong, or Polaris, series. The other was harder to discern, though it carried a "Hwasong," or Mars, designation name.

The photos were carried in the morning edition of the Rodong Sinmun, the ruling party's newspaper, and released by the Korean Central News Agency just two days after the United States and South Korea began annual military exercises that the North claims are a rehearsal for war.

Tensions on the peninsula generally ratchet up during the maneuvers and a series of larger exercises held each spring.

The KCNA report on the visit said Kim called on workers at the plant to produce more solid-fuel rocket engines and rocket warhead tips.

Michael Duitsman, a research associate at the Center for Non-Proliferation Studies, said the first missile has not been seen before.

"The Pukguksong-3 is definitely new," he said in an email to the AP.

The missile might be designed to fly farther and to be launched from protective canisters, which allow missiles to be transported more easily and makes them more difficult to locate and destroy in advance. Solid-fuel engines add to that difficulty because they allow for quicker launches than liquid-fuel missiles. It could possibly also boost the North's submarine-launched missile capabilities.

North Korea successfully tested the submarine-launched Pukguksong-1 in August last year. It then followed up with a successful test of the land-based Pukguksong-2 in February this year. Both are believed to have intermediate ranges that could target Japan and the U.S. bases there but not the mainland United States.

The submarine and land-based technologies overlap, and developments in either can benefit both.

"It's pretty smart to use the same missile design for both an SLBM and a land-based variant, the key being the canister," said Vipin Narang, an associate professor of political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who focuses on nuclear proliferation. "On land it's easier to move and store, and fire. And you need a canister-based system for ejection at sea."

Duitsman said the quality of the pictures made it hard to immediately distinguish what the other missile was—though he said it was likely either a Hwasong-13 or Hwasong-11.

Hwasong is what North Korea calls most of its missiles, including its only ICBM—the Hwasong-14, which it tested last month. That missile is believed capable of reaching the U.S. mainland, though it probably needs another year or more of fine-tuning before it could be a serious threat.

"If it is the Hwasong-13, then there has been an enormous change to the design," he said. "The Hwasong-13 was originally paraded in 2012 as a liquid-fueled missile."

He cautioned that more analysis is needed.

"Changing an entire missile from liquid to solid fuel, or vice versa, is generally something you don't do," he said. "The design principles are very different."

World

Suspect says imam planned to blow himself up in Barcelona

AP

In this combination photo, four un-named alleged members of a terror cell accused of killing 15 people in attacks in Barcelona leaves a Civil Guard base on the outskirts of Madrid before appearing in court in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday Aug. 22, 2017.

MADRID (AP)—An extremist cell was preparing bombs for an imam who planned to blow himself up at a Barcelona monument, a key suspect in the attacks that killed 15 people in northeastern Spain told a judge Tuesday, according to a judicial official.

The suspect, Mohamed Houli Chemlal, was one of four men taken before Spain's National Court in Madrid to testify about the Islamic cell that attacked pedestrians in Barcelona and the nearby seaside town of Cambrils last week.

National Court Judge Fernando Andreu questioned the four about the vehicle attacks as well as the fatal explosion at a bomb-making workshop that police said scuttled the group's plot to carry out a more deadly attack at unspecified Barcelona monuments. After the session, the judge ordered two of the surviving suspects held without bail, another detained for 72 more hours and one freed with restrictions.

A Spanish judicial official said Houli Chemlal, 21, and suspect Driss Oukabir, 28, identified imam Abdelbaki Es Satty as the ideological leader of the 12-man cell.

Oukabir and the other two surviving suspects who testified, Mohamed Aalla and Sahal El Karib, denied being part of the cell, said the court official, who was not authorized to discuss the case and insisted on speaking anonymously.

The cell's other eight members are dead. Police shot five during an attack Friday and one more Monday after a manhunt. Es Satty and another accidently blew themselves up while preparing explosives in a house in the coastal town of Alcanar, south of Barcelona.

Es Satty preached in a mosque in the northeastern town of Ripoll, home to most of the 12 pointed to by police as suspected members of the cell. Police identified his remains amid the rubble of the Aug. 16 explosion that destroyed the house in Alcanar.

Police found in the house over 100 tanks of butane gas and materials to make TATP, an explosive frequently used in attacks by Islamic State militants. The group has claimed responsibility for both attacks on pedestrians - one Thursday by a van that mowed down people on Barcelona's famed Las Ramblas promenade and another early Friday in Cambrils. The attacks and a bloody getaway in which a man was stabbed to death left 15 dead and over 120 wounded.

Houli Chemlal, the only survivor of the Alcanar blast, told the court Tuesday that he is alive because he was on the ground floor of the house washing dishes after dinner. He testified from a wheelchair without lifting his eyes up from the ground, according to the court official. He has been hospitalized under guard since his arrest Thursday.

The second suspect interrogated, Oukabir, testified he rented the vans used in the attacks on pedestrians but said he thought they were going to be used for a house move. His brother Moussa was one of the five radicals shot dead Friday by police in Cambrils.

According to another person who attended Tuesday's interrogation, Oukabir told the prosecutor that his first version of events—telling police his documents were stolen by his brother—was something he had done out of fear. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the hearing.

WORLD BRIEFS

Police: DNA of headless torso matches Swedish journalist

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Danish police say a DNA test from a headless torso found in the Baltic Sea matches with missing Swedish journalist Kim Wall, who is believed to have died on a private submarine. Wall, 30, was last seen alive on inventor Peter Madsen's submarine Aug 10. Madsen said he dropped her off on a Copenhagen island, but then told authorities "an accident occurred onboard that led to her death" and he "buried" her at sea. The headless torso was found by a member of the public Monday near where she was believed to have died. In a two-line statement, police said Wednesday there was a match, adding a news conference would be held later in the day.

5 killed in landslide in West African nation of Guinea

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—Authorities in the West African nation of Guinea say at least five people are dead after a landslide buried residents in a suburb of the capital. The tragedy was announced Tuesday by Boubacar Kasse, spokesman for Guinea's security minister. He said two children were among the victims of the disaster, which took place near a landfill. The official toll was expected to rise as neighbors recounted seeing more than five bodies pulled from the rubble throughout the day. A large swath of West Africa is currently experiencing rainy season, a time when homes are particularly vulnerable because many are poorly built or constructed too close to other dangers. In neighboring Sierra Leone, mudslides and flooding killed at least 500 people last week.

Focus

AP
In this April 15, 2011 file photo, Park Sang Hak, center, a refugee from the North who now runs the group Fighters for a Free North Korea from a small Seoul office, and South Korean conservative activists prepare to release balloons bearing leaflets condemning North Korean leader during an anti-North Korea rally against "The Day of the Sun," the anniversary of Kim Il Sung's birth 99 years, at the Imjingak Pavilion near the border village of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea.

Fighting North Korea with balloons, TV shows and leaflets

By TIM SULLIVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Some send up plastic leaflets that weigh less than a feather and flutter down from the clouds with calls for democracy or blurry cartoons ridiculing North Korea's ruler. Some send flash drives loaded with South Korean soap operas, or mini-documentaries about the vast wealth of Southern corporations, or crisp new U.S. dollar bills. One occasionally sends his empty food wrappers, stained labels showing noodles slathered in meat sauce, so Northerners can see the good life they'd find in the South.

They are self-proclaimed soldiers in a quiet war with North Korea, a disparate and colorful collection of activists taking on one of the world's most isolated nations—mostly using homemade hot-air balloons.

To their critics in South Korea, they run quixotic and perhaps pointless campaigns. Some are scorned as little more than attention-hungry cranks who spend much of their time exchanging insults with the others.

But the activists look across the border and see a country they believe they are already reshaping.

"The quickest way to bring down the regime is to change people's minds," said Park Sang Hak, a refugee from the North who now runs the group Fighters for a Free North Korea from a small Seoul office, sending tens of thousands of plastic fliers across the border every year. Fearing retaliation by Pyongyang, he goes nowhere without police bodyguards. "People are already wondering about their lives there," he said, with the spread of outside information letting them know that life is easier in China and South Korea.

Much of what the activists send—satirical cartoons, or teary soap operas awash in lost loves, curses and amnesia—doesn't look dangerous at all. But scholars and North Korean refugees say the outside information has helped bring a wealth of changes, from new slang to changing fashions to increasing demand for consumer goods in the expanding market economy.

While the activists often disagree about what should be sent into the North—some believe in snarky cartoons, others in documentaries, others in dry political leaflets laying out the lies of Pyongyang's propaganda—all see themselves as warriors nudging along change.

"North Korea keeps control by blocking outside information," said Lee Min Bok, a North Korean who was swayed to flee his homeland when he stumbled across earlier generations of leaflets 30 years ago. He has spent nearly 15 years sending leaflets into the North. "To destroy it peacefully, the influx of information is necessary."

Pyongyang detests the activists, decrying outside influences as a "yellow wind," even as it sends thousands of its own leaflets south every year.

"They are always trying to drop these pamphlets on us, near the border," said Kim Song Hui, a guide at the Class Education Center, a museum of anti-American and anti-Japanese propaganda in North Korea's capital. "But people in villages know that they should hand them in" to security officials.

How much influence do the activists have? It's not clear, especially since some smugglers have been bringing South Korean TV shows and American movies into the North to sell for years, without the activists' support.

AP
In this Oct. 22, 2012 file photo, Park Sang Hak, a refugee from the North Korea who now runs the group Fighters for a Free North Korea from a small Seoul office, hurls anti-North Korea leaflets as police block his planned rally on a road in Paju near demilitarized zone, South Korea.

"The influx of external information doesn't shake the regime," said Cheong Seong-Chang, an analyst at South Korea's Sejong Institute. It may bring incremental change, by encouraging a few people to defect, for example, but he doubts it'll do much more.

There are also risks to the balloon campaigns. North Koreans caught carrying political leaflets or flash drives could be severely punished, and the balloon launches could throw a wrench into cross-border diplomacy. The South Korean government stopped sending balloons over the border years ago, partly as an attempt to decrease tensions. The South's new liberal president, Moon Jae-in, has reached out to the North since his election earlier this year, and a government spokesman told reporters recently that the leaflets "could spark unnecessary military tensions, including a possible accidental conflict." Even some activists have curtailed their activities in recent years, with North Korea using specialized software to make it harder to share videos on mobile phones and other devices.

Still, every year the activists send hundreds of thousands of leaflets across the border, and thousands of DVDs and thumb drives loaded with everything from Bibles to American sitcoms to South Korean historical dramas.

Some are transported by hired smugglers via China. Some are sealed inside 2-liter water bottles tossed into the surf along the South Korean coast, then carried north by the current.

But most are carried by homemade balloons thousands of feet above the belt of razor wire and minefields that separate the two Koreas. If the winds behave, the balloons, typically about 3 feet wide and 25 feet long and made of thin translucent plastic, carry bundles of thousands of palm-sized leaflets over a country where almost no one has internet access or international phone service. Simple timers open the bundles after a set number of hours, scattering the leaflets.

The balloonists are deeply competitive and many openly detest one another ("They're all frauds," Lee says of the others; "North Korea is threatening only me!" insists Park).

Lee's leaflets are slightly larger than playing cards, with messages printed on both sides in small letters. They reveal some of the falsehoods of the ruling family's mythology, decry the authoritarianism of leader Kim Jong Un and describe the affluence of South Korean life.

But Lee, one of about four dozen activist-balloonists in South Korea, sees himself as the real propaganda, and includes personal details to make himself more credible.

"I want them to believe I was one of them," he said in his makeshift office, a room fashioned from a shipping container that has a bed and a kitchenette. His main living space—more shipping containers where he lives with his wife and three children—are stacked above the office, in a small town about 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Seoul.

"I put down my name, my email address, my phone number," he said, offering a cup of instant coffee. "I tell them my place of birth and what I did" in the North.

He sometimes includes other things: flash drives with anti-Pyongyang documentaries, food wrappers, a Korean-language newspaper from Britain. Anything he believes will open a few eyes.

He knows he's not going to start a revolution. But that's fine with him.

"Maybe one person rebels" after reading the leaflets, he said. "Maybe one person defects. I want them to decide for themselves what to do."

Environment

Warming Arctic

spurs battles for riches, shipping routes

AP
A glacier calves icebergs into a fjord off the Greenland ice sheet in southeastern Greenland, Thursday, Aug. 3, 2017.

LANCASTER SOUND, Nunavut (AP)—From a distance, the northern shores of Baffin Island in the Arctic appear barren—a craggy world of snow-capped peaks and glaciers surrounded by a sea of floating ice even in the midst of summer.

Yet beneath the forbidding surface of the world's fifth largest island lies a vast treasure in the shape of an exceptionally pure strain of iron ore. The Baffinland mine, part-owned by a local company and ArcelorMittal, one of the world's biggest steel producers, is believed to hold enough ore to feed smelters for decades.

As climate change pushes the cold and ice a little farther north each year, it is spurring talk of a gold rush for the Arctic's abundant natural resources, prized shipping routes and business opportunities in tourism and fishing. The Arctic, including the fabled Northwest Passage between the Atlantic and the Pacific, is among the last regions on earth to remain largely unexplored. In April, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order to reverse Obama-era restrictions on oil drilling.

Yet industry experts, researchers and veterans of the Far North say there remain many obstacles to reaping the riches once blocked by the ice. Conservationists also oppose the large-scale extraction of Arctic resources, fearing that the fragile environment will be irreparably harmed.

The Associated Press took a firsthand look at the Arctic on a monthlong, 10,000-kilometer (6,200-mile) journey aboard the Finnish icebreaker MSV Nordica, along with researchers specializing in Arctic development. The journey was in part an effort to promote the ship to potential clients in North America as an "icebreaker for hire."

"As the world demand for raw materials is ever increasing, and (with) a realization that a large part of the unexplored deposits are in the Arctic, there is a natural shift to focus on that area," said Mads Boye Peterson, head of Denmark's Nordic Bulk Carriers Shipping.

Peterson's company sent a freighter through the Northwest Passage four years ago to demonstrate the feasibility of using the route to haul cargo during the summer months, when melting sea ice opens up these frigid waters. But he also noted that rising temperatures make operations more difficult because moving floes are less predictable than unbroken sheets of ice.

"On the surface it might look like a slam dunk," he said. "But it's actually a lot more complicated than just something you decide to do overnight."

■■■

The Arctic stretches from the North Pole to roughly the 66th parallel north, an area of about 20 million square kilometers (almost 8 million square miles) of freezing seas and tree-less lands.

The U.S. Geological Survey has estimated that up to 30 percent of the world's undiscovered gas and 13 percent of oil waiting to be found are inside the Arctic Circle. Even if only a fraction of these fossil fuels are tapped they could be worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

Coal, diamonds, uranium, phosphate, nickel, platinum and other precious minerals also slumber beneath the icy surface of the Arctic, according to Morten Smelror, director of the Geological Survey of Norway. And the growing need for sophisticated batteries to power electric cars and handheld devices likely will drive demand for rare earth elements, lithium and cobalt found in significant amounts in the Arctic regions of Russia, the Nordic countries and Greenland, he said.

"The Arctic is certainly among the last frontiers with respect to undiscovered mineral resources, along with the deep oceans," said Smelror.

Apart from natural resources, the geography of the Arctic also opens up new opportunities. Sailing through the Northwest Passage could potentially cut the distance from East Asia to Western Europe by more than 10,000 kilometers (6,200 miles), compared with the traditional route through the Panama Canal, offering huge fuel savings for shipping companies.

It's a far cry from the Cold War, when the only ships crisscrossing the frigid straits were nuclear submarines patrolling the frontier between East and West. The new battle for the Arctic and its resources is being fought by geologists and legions of lawyers.

Greenland, an autonomous region of Denmark, has staked its claim to the Lomonosov Ridge - a massive underwater feature jutting hundreds of miles beneath the Arctic Sea that would greatly extend Greenland's sea bed continental shelf for possible use in future undersea mining. Russia contests the claim—one of several disputes before the U.N. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

Moscow boldly underlined its claim to a vast part of the Arctic Ocean floor 10 years ago by planting an underwater flag at the North Pole. Russia has also been expanding infrastructure along its northern coast, partly to exploit reserves of natural gas in the region.

Canada, meanwhile, contends that the waters of the Arctic archipelago—an area about twice the size of Texas—are its internal waters. To support its claim, Canada has been stepping up its activities in the region, including creating a new Arctic research center and developing autonomous submarines to improve underwater charts. It has also been conducting search and rescue exercises in anticipation of growing ship traffic in the Northwest Passage.

Preparations for Nordica's journey included registering with Canadian authorities, who closely monitor traffic in the Northwest Passage to ensure compliance with environmental rules. Fewer than 500 ships have sailed through the passage since the first transit in 1906.

Canada's claim to the waters of the Arctic archipelago is contested by the United States, mainly due to concerns that it could set a precedent other, less friendly nations might follow.

In general, the United States is taking a back seat for now. Washington has yet to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea that would regulate territorial disputes, due to concerns among some senators that submitting to international treaties would impinge on U.S. sovereignty.

Despite competing claims and tough talk to home audiences, Arctic nations are cooperating well with each other, said Rachael Lorna Johnstone, a professor of law at the University of Akureyri in Iceland.

"Everyone is following the rulebook," she said.

Some smaller firms are pressing ahead with business in the Arctic. The Alaska-based company Quintillion is laying a fiber optic cable through the Northwest Passage to provide high-speed Internet traffic to local communities. It would also establish an additional link between London and Tokyo—where two of the world's main stock markets are located.

The growth in adventure tourism and the lengthening summer season have produced a surge of traffic over the past decade. Last year, the cruise ship Crystal Serenity with 500 crew and 1,100 passengers paying at least $22,000 each for a four-week journey sailed through the passage.

Such tours require years of planning and the approval of almost 30 Canadian agencies, including the authorities in the indigenous territory of Nunavut. Part of the revenue goes to local communities whose hunting grounds and travel routes might be disrupted by large vessels.

"It basically opens up so much ice that we can't even use the ice anymore, and we have to go by land where it was just right across before," said Maatiusi Manning.

The 33-year-old Inuk from Baffin Island's Cape Dorset was on board the Nordica, gaining 'ship time' as part of his training to work on a factory fishing ship.

Developing the local fishing industry is one way to solve the region's chronic lack of jobs, now further threatened by the effects of climate change.

"Money-wise it's great," Manning said of the fishery job he hopes to land when his training is completed. "It's going to help a lot of families."

The environmental group Greenpeace said it was important to ensure the Inuit control their own fisheries, rather than let outside corporations with no link to the Arctic harvest its rich waters.

"The fisheries are abundant in the Arctic," said Charles Latimer of Greenpeace. "But we don't want to make the same mistakes that we've done in other parts of the world where fisheries are collapsing."

Climate change is even opening new avenues in agriculture. Mette Bendixen, a climate researcher at the University of Copenhagen, projects that global warming will continue into the 21st century, extending the growing season by two months.

"Not many people know that potatoes, strawberries are grown in southern Greenland," he said.

■■■

Despite its promise, there are several challenges holding back the development of parts of the Arctic and the use of its resources.

The search for fossil fuels above North America has slowed in recent years. One reason is low oil prices, which along with public pressure have made the Arctic shortcut less attractive to shipping firms. The drop in prices has hit Alaska's budget hard, because it relies heavily on oil and gas revenue.

While Russia and Norway are pressing ahead with new oil and gas projects along their coastlines, the seas off Alaska and northern Canada are much less accessible and any major spill would be difficult and costly to contain.

Shell relinquished most of its federal offshore leases in Alaska's Chukchi Sea last year, after pouring billions of dollars into exploration efforts over the past decade. Former Shell leases in the neighboring Beaufort Sea have been taken over by an Alaska Native-owned company.

"There are a lot of hydrocarbons in the Arctic, but for them to be economically viable the cost per barrel has to be higher," said David Barber, an expert on the Arctic environment at the University of Manitoba. "Of course it will go higher, and thus the Arctic issue will come to the foreground again."

The rugged nature of the Arctic also slows development. Only 10 percent of the Northwest Passage is surveyed to the highest modern standards, meaning uncharted shallows could pose a serious risk to shipping. Ocean currents are predicted to push polar pack ice into the passage for decades, limiting the route to sturdy vessels with experienced navigators—and keeping insurance costs high.

"Think about a high mountain pass that is closed for half the year, has no gas stations, convenience stores or repair facilities," said Andrew Kinsey, a senior marine risk consultant at insurance giant Allianz. "Is this the route that you want to use for your daily commute?"

Life & Style

Glam shot gets ugly: Mnuchin wife touts style, slams critic

WASHINGTON (AP)—It was a glam shot that got ugly.

The wife of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin dove headlong into a social media skirmish this week, blasting a critic of her Instagram post highlighting her high fashion choices. Calling the commenter "adorably out of touch," Louise Linton suggested she and Mnuchin contributed more to the U.S. economy and paid more in taxes than did her critic.

After a day of mounting criticism, the Scottish actress issued an apology Tuesday. But she had already assumed a starring role in the continuing story of the Trump administration's enormous wealth.

"I think spouses of political appointees are usually not fair game for critics, but with Trump, tensions are heightened," said Republican political consultant Alex Conant.

The drama began Monday when Linton posted a photo of herself getting off a government plane in Kentucky with Mnuchin. In her post, Linton mentioned several designer labels for her white ensemble, including Tom Ford and Valentino.

Commenter Jenni Miller responded from Oregon: "Glad we could pay for your little getaway. #deplorable."

Linton shot back, defending herself and Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs executive and hedge fund investor.

"Pretty sure the amount we sacrifice per year is a lot more than you'd be willing to sacrifice if the choice was yours," Linton wrote. She went on to call Miller's response "passive aggressive" and "nasty" before ending her retort with a suggestion that Miller "go chill out and watch the new game of thrones."

Miller told CNN she found Linton's original post "incredibly offensive," saying Linton went to a state with high poverty and "chose to brag about her outlandishly expensive clothes. It's more than tone-deaf, it's deplorable."

In her apology, Linton said: "I apologize for my post on social media yesterday as well as my response. It was inappropriate and highly insensitive."

Norm Eisen, President Barack Obama's chief ethics attorney, called Linton a "Marie Antoinette for our age." In an email, he added that in the Bush or Obama administrations, a spouse of an official who replied that way and the official "would have been counseled."

The White House referred questions about Linton to the Treasury Department, which said Mnuchin and Linton are reimbursing the government for Linton's travel and that Linton received no compensation from the fashion labels mentioned in her post.

Anita McBride, who served as chief of staff for former first lady Laura Bush, said people in high-level government jobs and their spouses must be careful about their public statements.

"Fairly or unfairly, you are held to a higher standard on how to respond and what kind of dialogue you should engage in," she said. "Don't take the bait."

In a Cabinet with plenty of wealth, Mnuchin is among the richest members. He worked for Goldman Sachs for nearly two decades and later founding a successful hedge fund. He also ran a company that invested in Hollywood movies including such blockbuster hits as Avatar. He married Linton, who has had small roles in television shows and movies, in a lavish Washington wedding in June. Trump attended the wedding and Vice President Mike Pence officiated.

Before the wedding, Linton gave an interview to "Town and Country" magazine to talk about her jewelry, a lavish collection of diamonds and pearls.

Like the businessman president, Trump's team is packed with high rollers, including Education Secretary Betsy Devos, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, National Economic Council director Gary Cohn, as well as daughter Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner, both senior advisers.

This isn't the first time their wealth has drawn attention. The president has chosen his lavish Florida vacation home as a place to host foreign dignitaries.

In this Friday, Jan. 20, 2017, file photo, then Treasury Secretary-designate Stephen Mnuchin and his then-fiancee, Louise Linton, arrive on Capitol Hill in Washington, for the presidential inauguration of Donald Trump. AP

Cosby's retrial delayed as new legal team joins case

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Bill Cosby's retrial on sexual assault charges will be delayed until next year as his new legal team gets up to speed on the case, which pits the 80-year-old comedian against a woman who says he drugged and molested her more than a decade ago.

Judge Steven O'Neill on Tuesday granted a defense request to postpone the retrial, which had been scheduled to start in November, saying there's no way that Cosby's lawyers would be ready by then.

"To ask someone to review the voluminous record over 18 months—now 20 months in this case—simply cannot be done," O'Neill said from the bench.

Cosby's new lawyers made their first court appearance on behalf of "The Cosby Show" star, who's charged with knocking out accuser Andrea Constand with pills and sexually assaulting her at his home near Philadelphia in 2004. He says Constand, a former executive with Temple University's women's basketball program, consented to their sexual encounter.

His first trial ended without a verdict after the jury deadlocked, setting the stage for a retrial.

The judge on Tuesday asked Cosby's lawyers to consider a start date sometime between March 15 and April 1. He said he'll issue a firm date once they get back to him.

"Hopefully they'll get up to speed quickly so we can bring this case to justice. It's a case that deserves a verdict and we intend to get there," District Attorney Kevin Steele told reporters outside court.

The jury for the retrial will likely come from the Philadelphia suburbs. Signaling an early change in strategy, Cosby's new lawyers said they would be willing to pick a local jury, and Steele's office said it wouldn't object.

Cosby's former defense team insisted on picking a jury from a different county, partly because the case was a campaign issue in the 2015 race for Montgomery County district attorney. The jury in Cosby's first trial came from the Pittsburgh area and spent two weeks in June sequestered 300 miles (483 kilometers) from home.

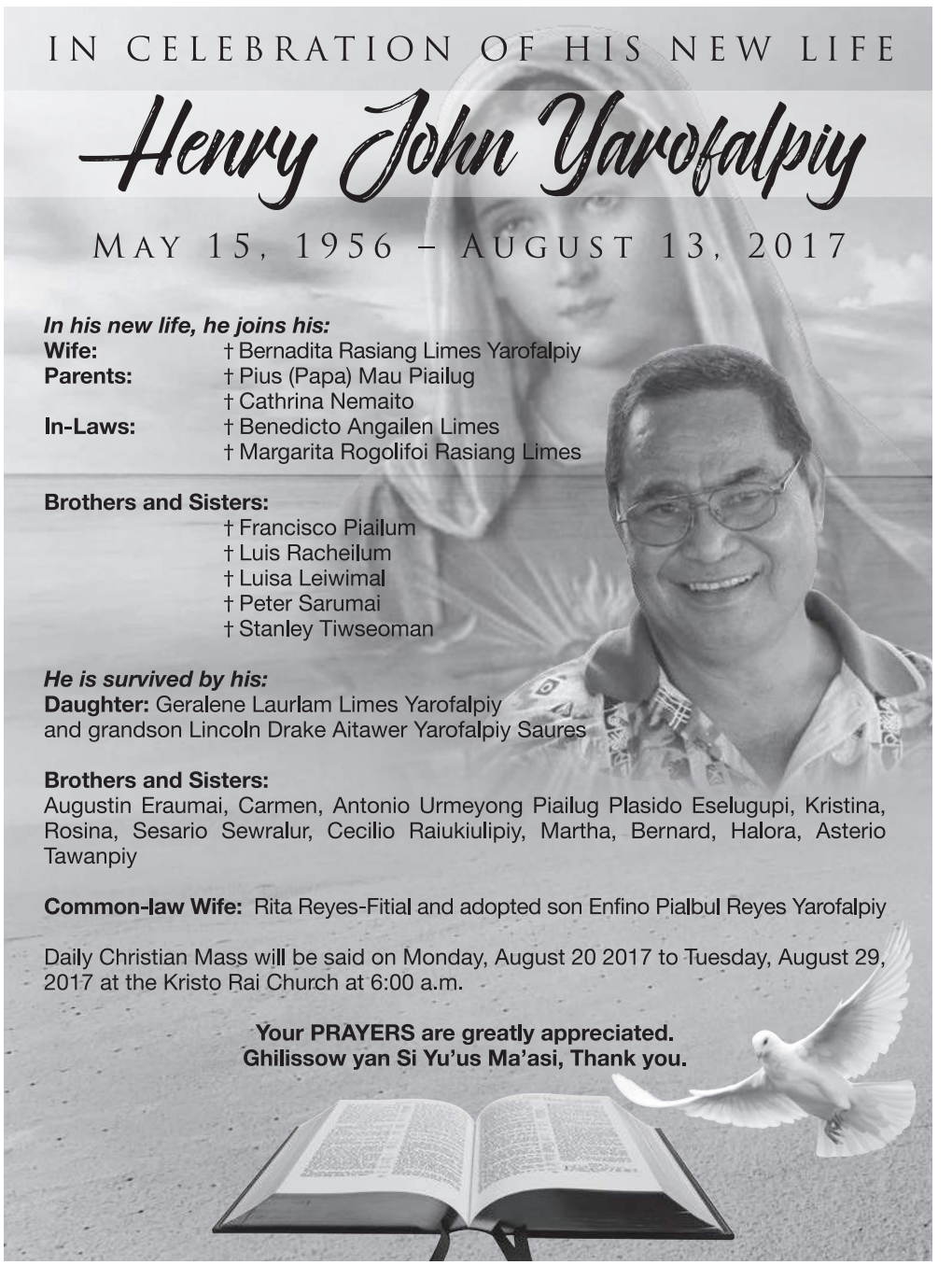
The attorneys who represented Cosby at that trial, Brian McMonagle and Angela Agrusa, had asked to be let off the case. O'Neill approved the request Tuesday, praising them for their "extraordinary advocacy."

As they left the courtroom, the departing lawyers shook hands with Cosby and his new legal team, which includes Tom Mesereau, the high-profile attorney who won an acquittal in Michael Jackson's child molestation case. Mesereau told TMZ last month that the case against Cosby was "weak" and that retrying him was "a waste of time."

Other lawyers on the retooled legal team are former federal prosecutor Kathleen Bliss and Sam Silver, who represented now-imprisoned former U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah in a corruption case.

None of the defense lawyers commented as they left court Tuesday.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.


IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE
Henry John Yarofalpiy
MAY 15, 1956 – AUGUST 13, 2017
In his new life, he joins his:
Wife: † Bernadita Rasiang Limes Yarofalpiy
Parents: † Pius (Papa) Mau Piailug
† Cathrina Nemaito
In-Laws: † Benedicto Angailen Limes
† Margarita Rogolifoi Rasiang Limes
Brothers and Sisters:
† Francisco Piailum
† Luis Racheilum
† Luisa Leiwimal
† Peter Sarumai
† Stanley Tiwseoman
He is survived by his:
Daughter: Geralene Laurlam Limes Yarofalpiy
and grandson Lincoln Drake Aitawer Yarofalpiy Saures
Brothers and Sisters:
Augustin Eraumai, Carmen, Antonio Urmeyong Piailug Plasido Eselugupi, Kristina, Rosina, Sesario Sewralur, Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, Martha, Bernard, Halora, Asterio Tawanpiy
Common-law Wife: Rita Reyes-Fitial and adopted son Enfino Pialbul Reyes Yarofalpiy
Daily Christian Mass will be said on Monday, August 20 2017 to Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at the Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m.
Your PRAYERS are greatly appreciated.
Ghilissow yan Si Yu'us Ma'asi, Thank you.

Justice is kind: Folksy judge, 80, becomes an internet star

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—An 80-year-old judge is an unlikely viral video sensation, but somehow Municipal Court Judge Frank Caprio has been winning hearts and clicks on Facebook with a mix of compassion, humor and a rotating cast of the poor souls who have been ticketed in the city of Providence.

Videos featuring the kind-hearted judge have now reached hundreds of millions of views.

Caprio calls children to come up on the bench to help pass judgment on their parents and makes high schoolers promise to attend college in return for dropping tickets. He works out payment plans for people who are struggling. Occasionally he loses patience, especially when he thinks the person is trying to give him "a snow job." He even gets laughs when he turns down pleas for a break.

The judge thinks he's gone viral because people have lost faith in government and are accustomed to institutions coming down hard without regard for personal circumstances.

"I think I should take into consideration whether somebody is sick and whether their mother died and whether they have kids who are starving," he said. "I don't wear a badge under my robe. I wear a heart under my robe."

One video features a woman who had racked up tickets and fines of $400. She broke down as she described trying to pick up the pieces after her son was stabbed to death.

"I'm just really having a tough time, your honor," she told the judge through tears, as Caprio listened attentively.

"I don't think anyone in their lifetime would ever want to experience that," he told her.

"It's the worst feeling in the world. I feel so empty and lost," she replied.

He dismissed the tickets.

The case has been viewed nearly 170 million times on Facebook and given subtitles in nine languages.

Commenters from around the world weigh in on the videos about the judge's tenderhearted approach and the American court system, something Caprio mentions with pride.

In this Aug. 10, 2017 photo, Providence Municipal Court Judge Frank Caprio sits on the bench in Providence, Rhode Island. AP

"I may be adding just a little bit more understanding toward the United States system of government and how it works, that we are a decent peace-loving people, and not how we're being portrayed in other parts of the world," he said.

He learned his compassion from his father, an immigrant from Italy and fruit peddler-turned-milkman, who would pay milk bills for customers who fell behind, even though his own family lived in a cold-water flat with few resources of their own.

Caprio taught high school history to support himself as he attended law school at Boston's Suffolk University at night. After building a law practice, he became a part-time judge on the municipal court in 1985, hearing mostly non-criminal matters. A few years later, his brother, Joe, began filming the proceedings, calling the show "Caught in Providence."

It has aired locally since then, but Caprio's fame took off after shorter clips started appearing on Facebook last year, posted by Joe' production company and Sociable, a Providence social media company.

"Uncle Joe" as he's known to online fans, says his brother is the same off camera as on, and he has a good message for America and the world.

"He's like a father figure to the world," he said. "He's a senior gentleman. When he says something, they listen."

People who come into court are given the chance to opt out of being filmed, and a handful did on one recent morning. But most didn't seem to mind, including Judy Barros, who has watched the show for years and appeared before him twice.

"If you have a problem, he listens," she said, shortly after he dismissed a ticket for parking in a no-parking zone, even though she had a disability placard.

When he's not on the bench, the judge has a busy law firm, owns an oceanfront restaurant and keeps up an active social life as the head of a sprawling family. President Donald Trump's ex-wife, Marla Maples, stayed in Caprio's guesthouse with mutual friends earlier this month. The following night, he had dinner with talk show host Regis Philbin.

Singer Paula Abdul is considered a member of the family after she started dating his son, John, six years ago. Another son, Frank T. Caprio, was the Democratic nominee for Rhode Island governor in 2010.

Back in the courtroom, Caprio said he's not trying to change the world, but he's trying to do his part.

"In the final analysis, I'm only doing what my father taught me to do," Caprio said. "I'm following his advice, and it resonated in the world."

Carnival hits town as Mayweather and McGregor ready to fight

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The carnival finally hit town Tuesday, with Conor McGregor and Floyd Mayweather Jr. putting on a bit of a fashion show before promising to knock each other out in their highly anticipated boxing match.

Mayweather wore a fedora and gold rimmed glasses while McGregor sported a three-piece suit and tie and aviator sunglasses as they made separate appearances before a crowd of several hundred people in front of the arena where they will fight Saturday night.

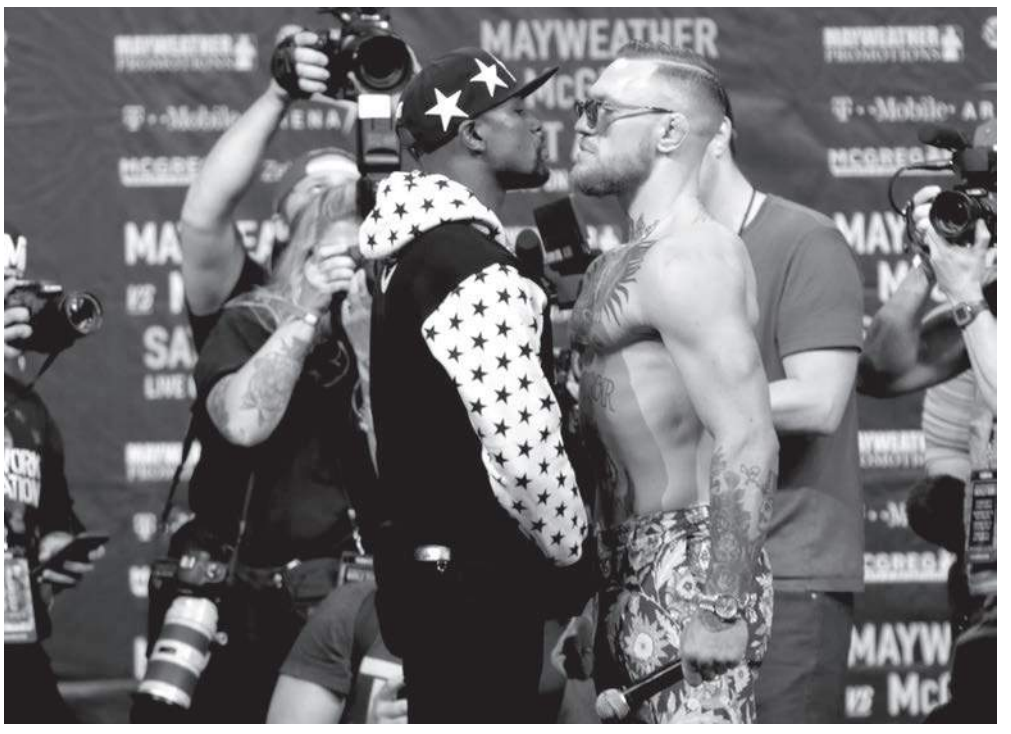
The two got into an unplanned verbal confrontation as they moved between the outdoor stage and the arena, though it was brief. Bodyguards kept them apart and both fighters are smart enough not to do anything to jeopardize their immense paydays from what could be the richest fight ever.

"It's work," Mayweather said when asked if he was having fun. "My job is to be a fighter."

McGregor, meanwhile, reiterated his vow to knock Mayweather out within two rounds, and claimed the boxer was getting desperate in making comments about his weight and stamina.

"Let him keep praying about weight and fatigue. All he's doing is praying," McGregor said. "But he's praying to the new god of boxing."

The crowd for one of the final promotional events was small and not terribly vocal, especially after waiting an hour or two in 100-degree heat to see the fighters. There was no one in line at T-Mobile Arena's three ticket windows, where plenty of expensive tickets remain for the bout.



In this July 13, 2017, file photo, Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, and Conor McGregor, of Ireland, face each other for photos during a news conference at Barclays Center in New York. AP

The big money for the two fighters will come from pay-per-view sales, and early indications are that it could break all records. Some 50 million people may watch in the United States alone, with millions more tuning in worldwide.

Estimates vary wildly, but Mayweather could pocket $200 million, while McGregor might make $100 million.

The promotion has been more circus-like than anything, but both boxers said they were serious about putting on an explosive show on fight night.

"This fight is not going to go the distance," Mayweather said.

"I believe I'll knock him out early, one or two rounds," McGregor said.

Both fighters seemed relaxed and confident, just days away from a fight that seemed improbable at times and impossible at other times. Yet they will meet under boxing rules in a scheduled 12-round fight that matches a UFC champion who has never boxed professionally against the master defensive fighter of his time.

McGregor said it was just another progression in his fighting career, and chided Mayweather for saying he hopes the referee does his job and doesn't allow McGregor to try any mixed martial arts moves against him.

"I may make him beg me to follow the rules," McGregor said.

Latino coalition: CBS diversity progress is part of new push

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Latino leaders meeting with top CBS executives last week were braced for a confrontation over a protracted scarcity of Latino actors and stories on the network's prime-time shows.

"We said, 'That's it, no more'" in preparing for the encounter, said Alex Nogales of the National Latino Media Coalition.

Instead, the coalition said in a statement Tuesday it found CBS has made "record commitments" to improved representation of Latinos, which Nogales said has galvanized the group to demand more from other networks.

"We're going to be very militant from here on out. ... The next target is Fox," he said, with a meeting to be requested next week. Letter-writing campaigns and boycotts could be among the tools employed to push broadcasters to act, he said.

Fox didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Nogales said that what he and fellow coalition member Thomas A. Saenz learned from CBS Corp. CEO Leslie Moonves and other CBS executives proves change is possible.

Without releasing specific numbers per its agreement with CBS, the coalition said the network has doubled the number of Latino writers and cast members since 2016; agreed to order scripts from Latinos or with Latino themes, and will hear additional pitches from 10 Latino writers or producers.

One example of a Latino newcomer to CBS: Wilmer Valderrama, who joined the cast of "NCIS" last season as agent Nick Torres.

When he and Saenz left the meeting after seeing more recent, encouraging data, Nogales said, they shared the same thought: "'Man, if we had known we were going to get all these good things, we would have asked for more.'"

Saenz is the president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, while Nogales heads the National Hispanic Media Coalition.

In a statement, CBS called the meeting "very positive" and said it looked forward to continued progress and collaboration.

At a Television Critics Association meeting earlier this month, CBS executives were questioned about other diversity issues: Its new fall shows that are largely topped by male stars, as well as the departure of Asian actors Daniel Dae Kim and Grace Park from "Hawaii Five-O" over their reported demands for pay equal to the show's white stars.

The push for ethnic diversity came after the four major networks, ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC, fielded a fall 1999 slate of new shows with only white stars. The Latino coalition joined with black, Asian-American and American Indian civil rights groups to demand small-screen ethnic diversity.

Change has come in fits in starts, with African-American actors and producers making greater strides than other minorities. But in 2015, an Associated Press analysis of regular cast members on prime-time comedies and dramas found casts at three of the four networks were still whiter than the nation as a whole.

Mark Wahlberg tops Forbes list of highest-paid actors

NEW YORK (AP)—"Transformers: The Last Knight" star Mark Wahlberg has outmuscled Dwayne Johnson to become Hollywood's highest-paid actor in the past year with a transforming income of $68 million, according to *Forbes* magazine.

The former rapper known as Marky Mark beat out *Baywatch* star Johnson, with $65 million, and Johnson's *The Fate of the Furious* co-star Vin Diesel, worth $54.5 million

Wahlberg

The rest of the top five, released Tuesday, includes Adam Sandler, flush with a Netflix deal, at No. 4 with $50.5 million and Jackie Chan with $49 million.

The top 10 actors banked a cumulative $488.5 million—nearly three times the $172.5 million combined total of the 10 top-earning women.

All the data is from between June 1, 2016, and June 1, 2017, before fees and taxes.

Forbes Top 10 paid actors list includes Cruise and Chan

The top 10 paid actors this past year, according to Forbes:

1. Mark Wahlberg, $68 million

2. Dwayne Johnson, $65 million

3. Vin Diesel, $54.5 million

4. Adam Sandler, $50.5 million

5. Jackie Chan, $49 million

6. Robert Downey Jr., $48 million

7. Tom Cruise, $43 million

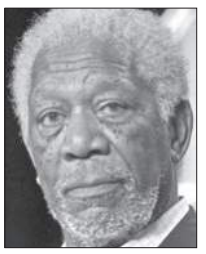
8. Shah Rukh Khan, $38 million

9. Salman Khan, $37 million

10. Akshay Kumar, $35.5 million

Morgan Freeman to receive SAG Life Achievement Award in 2018

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Morgan Freeman will receive the SAG Life Achievement Award at next year's Screen Actors Guild Awards ceremony.


Freeman

The actors union announced Tuesday that Freeman will accept its highest honor on Jan. 21, 2018.

The 80-year-old Freeman has already received lifetime achievement prizes from the American Film Institute and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, among many other acting accolades. He has been nominated five times for an Academy Award and won for his performance in 2004's "Million Dollar Baby."

Freeman's voice is among the most recognizable in entertainment. He has narrated many documentaries and lent his voice to the presidential campaigns of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Previous SAG Life Achievement Award recipients include Carol Burnett, Betty White, Elizabeth Taylor, Sidney Poitier, George Burns and James Earl Jones.

George and Amal Clooney donate $1M to fight hate groups

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George and Amal Clooney are donating $1 million to fight hate groups.

The couple announced Tuesday that their Clooney Foundation for Justice is supporting the Southern Poverty Law Center with a $1 million grant to combat hate groups in the United States.

George Clooney says in a statement Tuesday that they wanted to add their voices and financial assistance to the fight for equality.

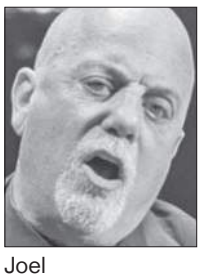
Clooney said, "There are no two sides to bigotry and hate."

The Southern Poverty Law Center monitors the activities of more than 1,600 extremist groups in the U.S. and has used litigation to win judgments against white supremacist organizations.

Last month, the Clooney Foundation announced a $2 million grant to support education for Syrian refugee children.

Billy Joel wears Star of David jacket during NYC show encore

NEW YORK (AP)—Billy Joel wore a bright yellow Star of David on his black suit during an encore at Madison Square Garden.


Joel

Monday's performance by "The Piano Man" came more than a week after a rally by neo-Nazis and other groups in Charlottesville, Virginia, ended in deadly violence against counterprotesters.

When asked about Joel's attire, his spokeswoman on Tuesday quoted Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Joel joined with Patty Smyth on stage in taking a swipe at President Donald Trump's administration. Photos of fired officials appeared on screen as Smyth sang her hit, "Goodbye to You."

Joel's ex-wife Christie Brinkley and their daughter, Alexa Ray Joel, attended the concert. Many of his relatives died in the Holocaust.

Marines fitness instructor puts Kate Upton through her paces

DETROIT (AP)—The U.S. Marines put supermodel Kate Upton through her paces on Tuesday during a workout in Detroit to promote the upcoming Marine Week celebration in the city.

AP

Model and actress Kate Upton takes part in a "workout with the Marines" to raise awareness for Marine Week, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017, in Detroit.

Upton struggled a bit at the end, but was able to complete the training routine that involved a series of aerobic exercises and running as her fiance, Detroit Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander, watched from afar. Upton joined several other Tigers players' wives and significant others in the session at Wayne State University's athletic complex that was led by Gunnery Sgt. Sara Pacheco, a Marine Corps fitness instructor.

"It was (a) very hard workout," Upton said following the exercise session, which she concluded by collapsing to the grass in an exhausted embrace with a fellow workout warrior. "I knew it was going to be hard. The Marines are very tough."

Verlander, a former American League most valuable player and winner of the Cy Young award as the league's top pitcher, said afterward that he was proud of Upton for her efforts.

"I think it's easy to show your support with words. I think going out there and doing that workout I think really shows how much she supports (the military)," Verlander said. He is the founder of the Wins for Warriors charity that supports military service members and their families.

Upton, a world-famous model who has appeared three times on the cover of the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue, was on hand to promote Marine Week, which runs Sept. 6-10, and is designed to provide the public with a better understanding of the Corps and its mission and the chance to connect with hundreds of Marines.

Evenings at home fall silent as wife embraces cellphone

DEAR ABBY: A large portion of conversation in our home has been replaced with the time my wife spends on her cellphone. Not that she is talking on it. It's games and Facebook that absorb hours of her time.

We used to spend evenings working on special projects together, but that is the exception now and no longer the rule. If I ask a question or make a comment, she answers, but we sit mostly in silence.

Must I accept this as the new norm that seems to have swept up everyone and wait for her to tire of this activity? I have gently mentioned my dismay, but when I did she became defensive and said it is HER time. Do you have any advice on how to cope with this?

MATTERING LESS IN MISSOURI

DEAR MATTERING: Facebook and gaming can be so absorbing that when members sign on for "just a minute," the next thing they know, two hours have flown by. I say this because it has happened to me.

Discuss this again with your wife, and this time tell her you miss the closeness you had when the two of you could share activities and that you are lonely. If she doesn't realize that it is a red flag, the two of you may need professional mediation to reach a compromise, such as a scheduled date night.

If that doesn't satisfy you, look for projects or hobbies you can share with other people with similar interests. You are not alone in having this problem. Taking evening classes might solve it in the short term.

DEAR ABBY: I am a gay man. My boyfriend, "James," and I have been together for nine years with a few time-outs. I'm 59; he's 57. In many ways we have a great relationship and care deeply for each other. Our problem? We are in the same field of employment but work for different companies. He works full-time in a highly stressful position, while I work 20 hours a week and have a great time doing it.

James earns twice what I do. I have no money put away for retirement because I don't earn enough to save. James doesn't like it. He wants someone who is his equal in saving money.

Obviously, our story isn't as simple as it sounds. His therapist supports his feelings. Mine says: "In 2008, when everyone lost their pensions, you didn't see a bunch of people filing for divorce, did you? There are more important things than money."

I don't know what to do. I want to grow old with James.

MONEY WOES IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

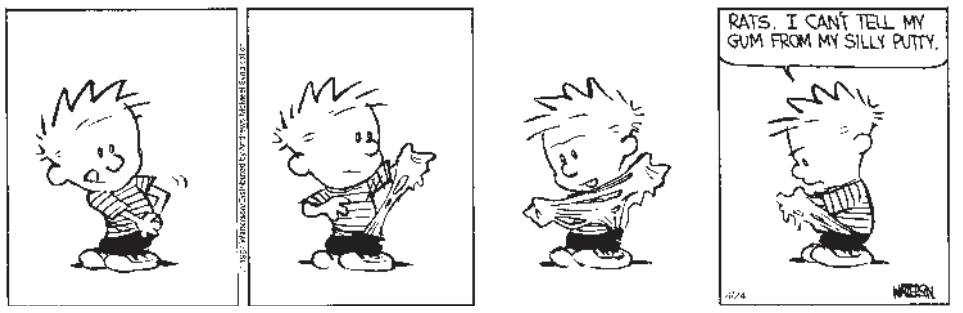
DEAR MONEY: You two need a different kind of mediation than two shrinks and an advice columnist. From where I sit, you would benefit from consulting a financial planner who can help you figure out if there's a way to put away some money for a rainy day. If you include James when you do, it might also give him some insight.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM'S REALITY SHOW, DAY 1:
OKAY. DO SOME COFFEE STUFF.
OKAY. UM...
SOMETIMES I BLOW ON IT TO COOL IT DOWN. LIKE THIS.
OR I TAKE A SIP AND SMACK MY LIPS. LIKE SO.
SMACK SMACK
IF THIS SHOW MAKES IT TO AIR, I'LL EAT MY SHIRT.
HOLD ON. YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ME HOLD MY MUG PENSIVELY IN A RAINY WINDOW!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

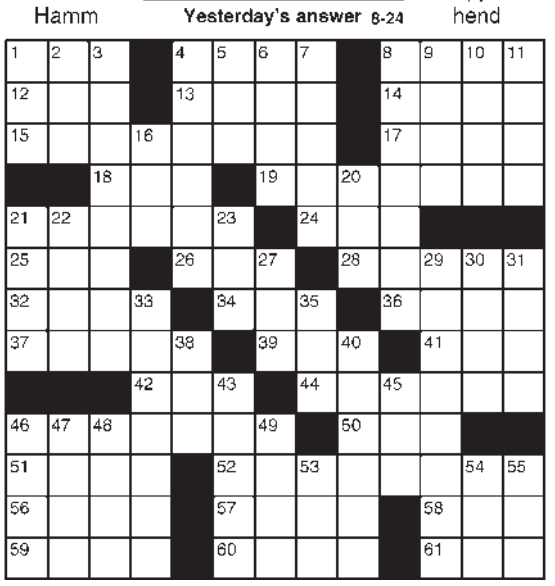
1 Tank filler
4 Dealer's foe
8 Promises
12 Greek mountain
13 — -friendly
14 Enrages
15 Consecrate
17 Spruced up
18 "Cheers" bartender
19 Pie chart divisions
21 Leg joints
24 Campaigned
25 In favor of
26 Inherited
28 Seized vehicles
32 Desertlike
34 Inlet
36 Harangue
37 Assessed
39 "Kapow!"
41 Sony rival
42 Bottom line
44 AMC series starring Jon Hamm
46 Member of a blended family
50 Sturgeon product
51 Mata —
52 Adherent
56 Bickering
57 Ovid's 53
58 Lawyers' gp.
59 Spiked club
60 "NFL Live" channel
61 Central point

DOWN

1 USO audience
2 Nabokov novel
3 Classical language of India
4 Eggnog sprinkling
5 "— was saying ..."
6 Boxing arbiters
7 Jon of "NCIS"
8 Wine merchant
9 Sandwich cookie
10 Put on
11 Bygone fliers
16 Baseball's Ripken
20 Lincoln or Ford
21 Miles away
22 Asta's mistress
23 Cry
27 Bar bill
29 Italian cheese
30 Never again?
31 Getz of jazz
33 Even though
35 Thanksgiving veggie
38 Lemon
40 Director Scorsese
43 Syrup flavor
45 "Where — begin?"
46 Counterfeit
47 "Toodle-oo!"
48 Idle or Clapton
49 Lectern locale
53 Shred
54 — Dhabi
55 Apprehend

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alex O'Loughlin, 41; Dave Chappelle, 44; Marlee Matlin, 52, Cal Ripken Jr., 57.

Happy Birthday: Unexpected changes will turn out better than anticipated. Keep a positive attitude and be willing to take part in challenges, and you will find a good way to use your intelligence and talent. Don't let what others do discourage you. Set your sights on the end result you want to achieve and make your way to the finish line. Your numbers are 1, 12, 20, 29, 37, 41, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You'll be tempted to make an impulsive decision regarding an important relationship or a personal physical change. Err on the side of caution and don't commit to anything until you have taken ample time to consider the consequences. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Avoid unnecessary travel. If you want to get the facts straight, do your own research. An unusual encounter will spark your imagination and help find a solution to a situation concerning a friend or loved one. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Taking a risk or making a change based on emotions is discouraged. Handle matters that deal with children or parents with compassion and understanding. Don't believe everything you hear. Get the facts and figure out the best way to move forward. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Tone down any desire to blow situations out of proportion. It's important to gather all the facts before you take action. Avoid individuals who are a bad influence, and steer clear of overspending, being indulgent or taking on too much. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep an open mind, but close your wallet. Overspending or being too generous will lead to added stress. Don't feel the need to brag or make promises that are not feasible. Focus inward and invest in yourself, not someone else. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Look for something that will stimulate your mind and stir up your emotions. Take part in events that will bring you in contact with potential partners. Share your ideas, but don't give away personal secrets, passwords or financial information. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You can charm your way in or out of anything. Using emotional tactics to manipulate a situation will ensure that you get your way with little resistance. Don't give anyone who tries to bully you information or reason to persist. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Use your imagination and creative input to help someone out or to work toward finding a solution that will improve your community or a cause you care about. Pay attention to detail and you will surpass your expectations. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep money matters in check. You'll be tempted to spend on things you don't need. You cannot buy love or class. Focus on personal changes that will improve your reputation and help you gain greater respect. Truth and moderation are essential. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Excessive behavior will set you back. Whether it's you or someone you hang out with, overdoing it will take its toll. Avoid situations that involve authority figures or making an impulsive decision. Sit tight until your timing improves. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stand up and be counted. Pour your heart and soul into what you believe in and want to pursue. Dedication and loyalty will be met with opportunity and positive change. Strive to reach your goals and you will make progress. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You can't control others, but you can make a difference in your life by doing things your way. Let your uniqueness show and don't be afraid to be different. Embrace the people who admire and love you for who you are. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, energetic and responsible. You are charismatic and helpful.

Eugenia's websites — eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3		7			
	8	5				9	7	
	1						2	
7				1				3
			6		5			
2				9				4
	2						8	
	6	3				2	1	
			8		1			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	9	5	1	3	4	7	2	6
3	7	1	8	6	2	9	5	4
2	4	6	9	7	5	8	3	1
4	5	8	2	9	3	1	6	7
7	6	3	4	5	1	2	9	8
1	2	9	7	8	6	3	4	5
6	1	2	3	4	8	5	7	9
5	8	7	6	2	9	4	1	3
9	3	4	5	1	7	6	8	2

Difficulty level ★★★ 8/23

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA Solution: 6 letters

S	Y	D	R	O	C	K	S	U	R	F	I	N	G	Y
T	N	R	A	M	E	R	E	W	E	T	H	E	R	A
A	O	I	T	R	T	Y	M	R	E	T	N	U	H	B
N	L	A	A	S	L	Y	L	E	U	L	B	E	U	N
W	O	B	A	T	R	I	E	N	B	L	E	E	R	O
E	C	O	R	R	N	U	N	N	A	I	T	L	L	R
L	C	B	D	K	I	U	H	G	D	M	A	T	E	Y
L	I	L	I	D	R	C	O	T	K	Y	T	S	Y	B
T	D	A	V	I	D	A	H	M	A	L	S	A	G	A
O	N	C	E	T	R	O	P	M	Y	B	A	C	L	T
P	O	K	T	L	O	R	D	H	O	W	E	W	A	H
S	B	O	O	I	L	A	T	A	U	N	O	E	D	E
K	G	P	U	R	A	N	I	T	E	S	D	N	Y	R
I	E	A	R	E	K	I	M	U	L	L	I	N	S	S
W	O	L	L	E	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L

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Albury, Baird, Bathers, Bathurst, Black Opal, Blue, Bondi, Byron Bay, Coast, Colony, Darling, David, Dive, Gladys, Hunter, Hurley, Lord Howe, Manly, Merewether, Mike, Mullins, Nelmes, Newcastle, Nuatali, Park, Port, Pura Nites, Rent, Richmond, Rocks, Ski, Snowy Mountains, Stanwell Tops, State, Surfing, Sydney, Tour, Walk, Wollemi National

Yesterday's Answer: Wild Yeast

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Issued at Saipan, CNMI this 24th day of August, 2017.

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Cavs trade Irving to Celtics for Thomas, more

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyrie Irving was tired of being teammates with LeBron James.

Now he has to figure out how to beat him.

Cleveland's All-Star guard, who asked owner Dan Gilbert to trade him earlier this summer, was dealt Tuesday night to the Boston Celtics for fellow All-Star Isaiah Thomas, forward Jae Crowder, center Ante Zizic and the Brooklyn Nets' unprotected 2018 first-round draft pick.

"It's extremely rare to trade for a 25-year-old player that's done what he's done, the offensive weapon that he is," Celtics president Danny Ainge said. "We feel like his best basketball is still ahead of him.

"We have a player that's proven to be a sure thing. We know how unpredictable the draft can be. You do pay a heavy price for a player of that age and that caliber."

Irving, whose late 3-pointer helped Cleveland win the 2016 NBA championship - and the city's first title since 1964 - is on his way to Boston, where he'll join a Celtics team that lost to the Cavs in last season's conference finals.

And as fate will have it, the Cavs will host the Celtics in their season opener on Oct. 17.

"Of course we know who our competition is, and we know who are biggest threats are each year," Ainge said. "But we feel like this is a trade that can make us better, and that's why we did it."

The blockbuster deal caps a wild summer for the Cavs, who lost their title defense in five games to Golden State in June. Since then, general manager David Griffin left, the team failed to convince Chauncey Billups to join its front office and James has played with fans' emotions with veiled postings on social media about his future.

Irving's trade demand cast a shadow over the entire organization.

But Cleveland may have salvaged its offseason.

"This trade needed to include both players and assets that we felt strongly could help us continue to compete for championships and we believe it does," said new general manager Koby Altman, who pulled off a deal that protects Cleveland's present and future.

In Thomas, they're getting a proven playmaker with a stellar reputation. The 5-foot-9 guard is one of the league's most dynamic backcourt players with an uncanny ability to get to the basket. Irving may be the only better finisher among point guards.

AP
In this June 7, 2017, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving (2) is guarded by Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) during the first half of Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland.

The 28-year-old Thomas was taken with the final selection in the 2011 draft—59 picks after Irving was picked first overall. But he has steadily scaled his way up to elite status.

Thomas' reputation in Boston was cemented when he led the Celtics through the playoffs last season despite the death of his sister on the eve of the postseason. He also had a front tooth knocked out during the second-round series against Washington and a hip injury eventually forced the team to shut him down early in the East finals, won by the Cavaliers in five games.

"Isaiah had just an amazing season this year and entertained us all, the whole city of Boston. And everybody fell in love with him," Ainge said. "He's such an underdog because of his size and his heart and his spirit which he plays."

Thomas is eligible for free agency next summer and believes he is worthy of a maximum contract. He has been quoted saying, "They better bring out the Brinks truck."

Cleveland also is getting Crowder, a solid perimeter defender, and a first-round pick that Boston got from Brooklyn. The package could help the Cavs reload if James opts out of his contract next summer and leaves Cleveland for a second time.

The Cavs drafted Irving with the No. 1 overall pick in 2011. He struggled in his first few seasons but blossomed in recent years alongside James. However, that didn't seem to be enough for the 25-year-old, who has wanted to be the focal point on his own team.

James wished Irving well on Twitter, calling him a "special talent/guy."

"Nothing but respect and what a ride it was our 3 years together," James wrote.

Asked about trading a fan favorite who rose from the depths of the draft for a player who asked out of a team with the NBA's best player, one year removed from a championship, Ainge said he has done his homework.

"We feel comfortable with who Kyrie is and who he can be," he said.

Minnesota showed some interest in Irving after his trade request became public, but were unwilling to part with young star Andrew Wiggins as the centerpiece of a deal. Wiggins is expected to sign a max contract extension in the coming weeks to stay with the Timberwolves.

The Phoenix Suns reportedly were not interested in parting with rookie Josh Jackson in a deal that also would have required Eric Bledsoe and the New York Knicks gave no indication that Kristaps Porzingis was ever on the table in a potential Irving trade.

Then the Celtics swooped in, landing the kind of star Ainge has long coveted. With the possibility of having to break the bank to retain Thomas next summer, Boston finally tapped into the treasure trove of assets that Ainge has assembled to get Irving, who is under contract for two more years.

Irving got his wish to get away from James, but he's not free of him yet.

On basketball: Kyrie gets a new address, but Cavs win trade

MIAMI (AP)—It's not the principals that will define the blockbuster trade between Cleveland and Boston. Great point guard leaves one city for another. That seems fair.

All the other parts, they will tell the story.

There are many ways to claim victory in the deal made Tuesday night. Kyrie Irving wanted his own team and got it, so he wins. Isaiah Thomas gets to play with LeBron James, so he wins. The Cavaliers got rid of a supposedly disgruntled star, so they won. The Celtics now won't have to decide if Thomas is worth something like a $180 million deal next summer, so they won. It's all semantics.

But look past all that.

In the end, Cleveland won. James won, too.

Here's a few reasons why James will be celebrating this deal: He'll still have a high-octane point guard; he's getting an absurdly good defender in Jae Crowder (he could have helped the Cavs' cause against Golden State in The Finals); he won't be going into the season dealing with drama about Irving's Cleveland future; this trade might even reap the Cavaliers the No. 1 pick in next year's draft.

All good things, all edge to Cleveland.

Give the Celtics credit for being bold. Danny Ainge knew winning the Eastern Conference's regular-season crown last season was meaningless, so he completely blew up a team that was a No. 1 seed and got hammered by the Cavaliers in the East finals. Sure, the Celtics played most of that series without Thomas, but that wasn't going to matter. The Cavs weren't losing that series.

So Ainge goes out and gets an All-Star point guard in Irving, after he hauls in Gordon Hayward during free agency and adds probable rookie of the year front-runner Jayson Tatum to the mix in the draft—plus gets another draft pick in either 2018 or 2019 for his trouble.

It's not a bad deal for the Celtics. They get Irving. It's his team. A storied franchise is in his hands and he will savor that.

It's just a better deal for Cleveland, at least right now.

Minnesota never offered Andrew Wiggins. Miami never offered half its roster. Portland wasn't giving up Damian Lillard. In the end the Cavs still got a star for a star, and since Thomas is only making about $6.3 million next season they got plenty of bonus parts as well to make the trade work.

It also solved one big Cleveland problem.

James' only motivation is rings, and this move gives him just that.

He will be looking to go to the Finals for the eighth consecutive year. Only three teams in NBA history have been to four straight finals—the Lakers, the Celtics, and the Miami Heat when James was with them. Golden State will be heavy favorites to join that club next June. The Cavaliers won't surprise many if they join them.

James will show up at camp in a couple of months and begin plotting ways to get his team back to the Finals. Had Irving still been there, James surely would have been wondering if they could make it work again. With Thomas, there won't be a question. James and Thomas already have great respect for one another, and Thomas runs on the same prove-people-wrong gasoline that James uses.

Cleveland has been through the free-agency-is-looming dance with James before, of course. If the Cavs want to keep him next summer, they simply have to go all-in to make him as happy as possible. This trade probably wasn't a bad start on that front.

In Boston, the Celtics will look very different this season.

Irving and Hayward are in; Thomas, Crowder, Avery Bradley, Kelly Olynyk and Amir Johnson are out—meaning five of Boston's seven top scorers from a No. 1 seed now play elsewhere.

The Cavs weren't overhauled; Irving is gone, Thomas, Derrick Rose and Jeff Green arrived.

From a continuity standpoint, obvious edge to Cleveland as well.

Regardless of all these Celtics-Cavaliers fireworks, it's still Golden State's world and probably will be for a long time. This deal didn't change that.

The Warriors will still be the favorites to win the last game of next season.

The first game of next season, as luck would have it, just happens to be Boston at Cleveland.

And just like that, the NBA has drama again.

Fister allows only leadoff homer as BoSox romp

CLEVELAND (AP)—Doug Fister gave up a leadoff homer in the first inning to Francisco Lindor and then nothing else, finishing with a career-best one-hitter, and Eduardo Nunez had five RBIs as the Boston Red Sox rolled to a 9-1 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Tuesday night.

Fister (3-6) was facing Cleveland for the third time in four starts, and the right-hander took advantage of his familiarity with the Indians' lineup. He allowed two walks and hit a batter, but was otherwise in control. Backed by two double plays, he pitched his first complete game since 2014 with Washington.

Jackie Bradley Jr. homered in the fifth off Carlos Carrasco (12-6) and Nunez connected for two-run double in the seventh and three-run homer in the eighth.

The AL East-leading Red Sox improved to 15-4 since July 31.

The game's start was delayed 73 minutes because of rain.

It was a rough day all around for the Indians.

The club placed All-Star reliever Andrew Miller (knee tendinitis) and starter Danny Salazar (elbow) on the disabled list. Also, second baseman Jason Kipins left after one at-bat with tightness in his right hamstring. He recently spent a month on the DL with a strained hamstring.

Fister, who was claimed on waivers from the Los Angeles Angels in late June, pitched against Cleveland a week ago when the Indians swung by Fenway Park to play a make-up of a game postponed earlier this season.

He took a 1-0 lead to the mound in the first, but gave it back on his third pitch when Lindor hit his 21st homer, a towering shot to right. Fister, though, buckled down and handled the Indians with ease, retiring the final 14 batters in a row.

Leading 3-1, the Red Sox gave Fister some insurance with a three-run seventh, highlighted by Nunez's double. With two on, Nunez hit a shot high off the wall in left to score both Sandy Leon and Bradley, who injured his left thumb reaching around catcher Yan Gomes' tag.

The Red Sox said Bradley will undergo further tests.

AP

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Doug Fister pats catcher Sandy Leon on the head after the Red Sox defeated the Cleveland Indians 9-1 in a baseball game, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017, in Cleveland.

Angels 10, Rangers 1

In Anaheim, California, Albert Pujols hit a three-run homer to become the major league career leader for home runs by a player born outside the United States, and Los Angeles beat Texas.

Pujols hit his 19th homer of the season and the 610th of his career, snapping his tie with Sammy Sosa for eighth all-time.

Kaleb Cowart also hit a three-run homer, and Kole Calhoun had three hits and drove in two runs to keep the Angels a half-game back of the Minnesota Twins for the second AL wild card.

Rangers right-hander Tyson Ross (3-3) allowed three runs and seven hits in 3 2/3 innings. Los Angeles righty Ricky Nolasco allowed a run over 4 2/3 innings, and Kenyan Middleton (5-1) followed with 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the victory.

Cubs 13, Reds 9

In Cincinnati, Cubs star Kris Bryant exited after being hit in the left hand by a pitch, and lefty Anthony Rizzo wound up playing third base as Chicago beat Cincinnati for its seventh win in nine games.

The defending World Series champions moved a season-high 10 games over .500.

Bryant was taken out as a precaution after being plunked in the ninth. Minus the NL MVP and ahead 13-6, manager Joe Maddon shifted Rizzo across the diamond from first base — the only other lefty third basemen in Cubs history played there in the 1800s. Rizzo didn't get any plays at the new position.

Hector Rondon (4-1) won in relief. Wandy Peralta (3-4) took the loss.

Braves 4, Mariners 0

In Atlanta, rookie Lucas Sims pitched three-hit ball over six innings and Atlanta scored on a crazy play that took three rundowns.

Sims (2-3) won his second straight start. The 23-year-old righty from suburban Atlanta won for the first time in front of the home folks.

Nick Markakis homered off Marco Gonzalez (0-1).

After committing four errors in the series opener, the Mariners botched two more plays defensively.

Third baseman Kyle Seager dropped a throw during a rundown in the sixth, allowing Ozzie Albies to race home. Seattle made five throws on the slapstick play, ending when first baseman Yonder Alonso cut across the diamond with the ball chasing one runner, then tossing to catcher Mike Zunino for a tag between second and third.

Astros 4, Nationals 3

In Houston, Matt Wieters hit a two-run homer, Howie Kendrick had a two-run triple and Washington beat Houston for the ninth straight time.

Washington's winning streak over the Astros dates to 2012. The NL East-leading Nationals have won 13 of 14 against Houston since 2011.

Tanner Roark (10-8) got the win and Sean Doolittle pitched a perfect ninth for his 15th save.

Charlie Morton (10-6) gave up four runs in six innings for the AL West-leading Astros.

Dodgers 8, Pirates 5

In Pittsburgh, Chris Taylor had three hits and drove in three runs as Los Angeles beat Pittsburgh.

Adrian Gonzalez doubled for his 2,000th career hit to help the NL West leaders.

Former Pirates reliever Tony Watson (7-4) picked up the win with a perfect fifth. Kenley Jansen struck out the side in the ninth for his 34th save.

Johnny Barbato (0-1) lost in relief.

Yankees 13, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Gary Sanchez hit two home runs — including a first-inning drive estimated at nearly 500 feet — and Masahiro Tanaka pitched seven tidy innings in his return from the disabled list to lead New York over Detroit.

Sanchez's two-run shot in the first was estimated at 493 feet by Statcast. The Yankees led 2-0 after that and never looked back.

Tanaka (9-10) allowed three runs and six hits in his first appearance since Aug. 9. He'd been out with right shoulder inflammation.

Matthew Boyd (5-7) allowed seven runs and seven hits in 2 1/3 innings.

Aaron Judge singled and walked three times, ending his record-setting streak of 37 games with at least one strikeout.

Royals 3, Rockies 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Danny Duffy and four relievers combined on a two-hitter, helping Kansas City hold off Colorado.

Duffy (8-8) took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and retired the first two batters before walking DJ LeMahieu and allowing a homer to Nolan Arenado. The Rockies star hit his 28th home run.

Jon Gray (5-3) dropped to 4-12 in 27 career road starts.

Marlins 12, Phillies 8, 1st game
Marlins 7, Phillies 4, 2nd game

In Philedelphia, Marcell Ozuna hit a two-run homer, Christian Yelich had a three-run shot and robbed Nick Williams of a two-run drive as Miami completed a doubleheader sweep.

Ichiro Suzuki's pinch-hit three-run homer broke a tie in the seventh inning of the opener and Giancarlo Stanton added his major league-leading 46th home run.

The Marlins and Philadelphia combined for 14 homers in the two games.

Twins 4, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Jorge Polanco homered for the third time in two days as Minnesota beat Chicago.

Polanco led off the fourth inning with his sixth homer of the season after going deep in both ends of a doubleheader Monday.

Kennys Vargas and Eddie Rosario added home runs against rookie Lucas Giolito (0-1) in his White Sox debut. The Twins remained in playoff position with their fifth win in six games.

Kyle Gibson (7-10) struck out a season-high eight over seven innings.

Brewers 4, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Travis Shaw hit a two-out double in the seventh inning to drive in Neil Walker with the go-ahead run and Milwaukee held on to beat San Francisco.

Ryan Braun and Keon Broxton drove in runs while Walker and Eric Sogard had two hits apiece to help the Brewers snap a five-game losing streak to the Giants.

Milwaukee trailed 3-2 following Brandon Crawford's two-run home run in the fifth before scoring twice off San Francisco reliever Albert Suarez (0-3).

The win pulled Milwaukee within three games of Colorado for the second NL wild card.

Jeremy Jeffress (1-0) retired three batters to get the win. Corey Knebel pitched the ninth for his 27th save.

Diamondbacks 7, Mets 4

In New York, J.D. Martinez hit an early three-run homer, Patrick Corbin pitched eight smooth innings to win his third straight stingy start and Arizona coasted past sinking New York.

Adam Rosales also homered and Paul Goldschmidt doubled twice.

Corbin (11-11) extended his shutout streak to 20 2/3 innings before rookie Amed Rosario homered in the fifth. Fernando Rodney earned his 29th save in 34 attempts.

Pitching in place of injured Steven Matz, lefty Tommy Milone (1-3) gave up a three-run shot to Martinez in the first.

Padres 12, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Yangervis Solarte homered and drove in a career-high six runs, Austin Hedges also went deep and San Diego beat St. Louis.

Solarte capitalized on starter Lance Lynn's lack of control with a three-run double in the second.

Hedges' three-run homer off Zach Duke capped a six-run seventh inning that also included three runs off Matt Bowman (3-5).

Craig Stammen (1-2) got one out in the sixth for the victory.

Athletics 6, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Ryon Healy homered twice, Jed Lowrie hit a two-run drive and Oakland beat struggling Baltimore.

Manny Machado hit a two-run homer in the sixth for Baltimore and Jonathan Schoop singled in two runs in the eighth to make it 5-4, but Khris Davis blunted the comeback with his 34th home run in the ninth.

Baltimore hasn't won consecutive games since Aug. 5-7.

Ubaldo Jimenez (5-9) gave up three homers and has won only one of his last eight starts. Simon Castro (1-1) pitched two innings to earn his first win since Aug. 31, 2015 and Blake Treinen got four outs for his fifth save.

Rays 6, Blue Jays 5

St. Petersburg, Florida, Lucas Duda and Corey Dickerson homered in the first two innings and Chris Archer struck out 10 for Tampa Bay.

Alex Colome got his major league-leading 37th save. Toronto has lost four straight.

Duda's 23rd home run (sixth with Tampa Bay) came off rookie Chris Rowley (1-1) in the first inning.

Norichika Aoki had led off the game with a homer off Archer (9-7).

Str8 Black Ball tries to keep lead

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tasha's Str8 Black Ball will try to stop three other teams' attempt to derail their title bid as the Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Tuesday League enters its last two weeks of matches.

Str8 Black Ball holds a slim 130-91 edge over the 9 Eleven Domoco Hustlers (129-92) with the 9 Eleven Titans (122-99) and the Chow Time Blue Haus Destroyers (120-101) not far behind.

Tasha's Crazy 8 (86-135) and Chow Time Assassins (76-145) are the other competing teams in the said division.

The Black Ball was playing the Titans, while the Hustlers were challenging the Crazy 8 and the Destroyers taking on the Assassins. Results were not yet available at press time.

The Str8 Black Ball, third placers before last week's games, jumped to the lead after a 13-0 blanking of the Assassins on Aug. 15. The Tuesday League's last two play dates are Aug. 29 and Sept. 5.

Mervin Sahagun, Jeff Gayas, Rey Hermogenes, Oliver Gragasin, and Orly Tibus proved to be no match as they blasted the Assassins' John Reyes, Chris Camacho, Julian Reyes, and Randy Sablan.

The Hustlers, not to be outdone, completed a masterful 10-3 triumph against the Titans to remain in the shadows of the new leaders. Crazy 8 defeated the Destroyers, 8-7, in the other match.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe Villagomez of Titans II tries to hit the 8-ball in their game against the Extreme in the Saipan Billiards Association Thursday League.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Crazy 8's Victor Formales lines up a shot in their game against the Destroyers in the Saipan Billiards Association Tuesday League.

In the Thursday League, the 9 Eleven Titans II coasted to a 10-3 decision against the Tasha's Extreme, while the 9 Eleven Jam Shooters scored a 9-4 win over the Chow Time Blue Haus Homeboyz.

The Tasha's Wild Bill's also downed the Sands Team SCS, 9-4, and the Chow Time 8-Black Ball defeated the 9 Eleven MJD Warriors, 8-5, in the other matches.

The Black Ball's win upped their record to 136-85 followed by the Warriors' 130-91 record. The Titans II is in third place with a 126-95 card, while the Wild Bill's are in fourth (118-103).

Team SCS (112-109), Homeboyz (91-130), Jam Shooters (89-132), and the Extreme (82-139) complete the standings. The Thursday League's schedule of games will be on Aug. 24 and 31 and Sept. 7 and 14.

VICTORIA

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the water, for two straight days and we loved every minute of it," she added.

The victory in the mahi category is a big boost to *Victoria* after it failed to win any division in last month's 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament. *Victoria*, which conquered the Tinian Fishing Derby in May this year, will next compete in the Rota Fishing Derby this October and hopes to make it back-to-back after ruling the same tournament last year.

Meanwhile, another Saipan-based team finished in the Top 3 in the Guam tournament last weekend.

Team Bella of Associate Justice Perry Inos placed runner-up in the marlin category after reeling in a 493-pounder.

In other results, *Debbie 1* took the grand prize in the annual tournament after catching a 511-lb marlin. The same boat captained by Roque Chaco topped the 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament after bringing in a 384.50-lb marlin at the Smiling Cove Marina dock during the second and final day of the competition.

CNMI

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the singles, respectively.

In the boys U14, Ji Min Woo was the highest ranked Commonwealth player in the singles after taking the third spot. He was joined by Sean Lee in the semifinals, while Seung Jin Paik and Richard Steele landed at No. 13 and 15, winning their consolation games. In the doubles, Lee (with the Federated States of Micronesia's Jerson Freddy) gained the runner-up honors, while Paik and Woo rounded out the Top 3.

In the girls U14, sisters Conatsu and Coume made it to the doubles finals and finished runner-up to New Caledonia's Clara Cwajenbaum and Vanuatu's Desiree Signo. In the singles, Conatsu was ranked third, while Coume and Maria Gregoire placed fifth and 12th, respectively.

In the U12, the CNMI's Daniel Kang and Anthony Gregoire finished fourth—the same ranking Hye Jin Elliot got when she suited up for the North Pacific Team.

STRONG

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round-robin play last Tuesday. East Pacific has a 6-5 slate, going into the last five matches.

The CNMI's Seung Jin Paik was scheduled to play in one of the five final games, facing Tahiti's Manovai Elie, while Sean Lee and Richard Steele were to see action in the doubles, teaming up with the Federated States of Micronesia's Jerson Freddy and Guam's Andrew Leng, respectively. Maria Gregoire was also set to compete in the doubles, as she and Guam's Kaia Malkooti were paired against Samoa's Kamu and Tonga's Ana Vaka.

In other initial results yesterday, East Pacific won the first three singles matches against West Pacific in the U16 age group, giving East Pacific a good chance to top the division.

Tahiti's Jeremy Guines outclassed Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy in the boys Singles 1, 7-6 (3), 6-3, and East Pacific swept the two singles games with Samoa's Eleanor Schuster and Tonga's Brookie Maassi prevailing against Fiji's Saoirse Breen, 6-1, 6-0, and Vanuatu's Rosalie Molbaleh, 6-1, 6-2, respectively.

With its three wins, East Pacific earned a 6-5 record, overtaking West (4-7) in second spot. North Pacific is done in the division with its 9-7 mark and could keep the top spot and the division title if East Pacific would win only two or less of the five remaining games and West Pacific would not sweep the rest of the matches. North Pacific was in a good position to rule the U16 age group after beating East last Tuesday, 5-3, and tying West, 4-4, last Monday.

In the U12 division, Hye Jin Lee foiled West Pacific's bid for a sweep in the singles play after winning over Fiji's Charlotte Nicholas, 6-2, 6-4. Elliot was also scheduled to play in the doubles with FSM's Leilah Etscheit and the North Pacific duo was to take on the Tuvalu pair Telupe Iupeli and Oliver Peseli. The West and North were battling for the second spot in the division as East had already secured the age group championship.

PGC: Samoa strong candidate

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Pacific Games Council was impressed to see Samoa's readiness to host the 2019 Pacific Games with its sports facilities well maintained and the government together with the private sector in full support of their bid to bring the quadrennial event to Apia.

Samoa, Guam, and French Polynesia volunteered to shoulder the hosting of the 2019 Games after Tonga withdrew early this year due to their financial situation and the concern of the cost in maintaining the sports facilities after the sporting event.

Apia was the council's first stop where they toured the sports facilities and met with sports and government officials as well as business leaders. PGC president Vidhya Lakhan and chief executive officer Andrew Minogue led the three-day evaluation.

Lakhan said the council was "very impressed" in seeing the facilities used during Samoa's hosting of the 2007 Pacific Games and the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games are well maintained and only require minimal repairs.

"These relatively recent major Games also mean that Samoa's sports federations have the degree of competence and experience necessary to deliver a large scale event like the 2019 Games in a short space of time," said Lakhan during the media conference.

He added Samoa presented a strong case of its willingness to bring the Games back to Apia. "Samoa has presented a very strong expression of interest to host the 2019 Pacific Games. [Samoa] has demonstrated during our visit that they have the facilities and capability required to deliver a successful Games in a short period of time."

"The full and financial support of the Samoan government adds the vital component of stability and certainly that the PGC is seeking in the wake of the Tongan government's withdrawal as Games host."

The council held separate meetings with the Samoa Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee Inc. board led by its president Patrick Fepuleai, and Samoa Prime Minister Tuilapea Sailele Malielegaoi, Finance Minister Sili Epa Tuioti, and Education, Sports and Culture Minister Afioga Loau Keneti Sio.

The council said the Samoan government gave the assurance to fully support the Games especially on the financial side if ever they were awarded the hosting rights of the 2019 Games.

The council also met with the heads and representatives of the sports proposed for the 2019 Games, Samoa's Attorney General for the draft of the host contract, and business leaders of companies that have a regional profile. They also toured the proposed competition venues and housing of the athletes.

The council then head to Port Vila in Vanuatu for a meeting with the chefs de mission for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games set in December. They resume the evaluation process by also conducting separate visits to Guam and Tahiti. They plan to announce the host of the 2019 Games later this month or in the first week of September.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	72	53	.576	—
New York	67	57	.540	4½
Tampa Bay	62	65	.488	11
Baltimore	61	65	.484	11½
Toronto	59	66	.472	13

Central Division

Cleveland	69	55	.556	—
Minnesota	65	60	.520	4½
Kansas City	63	61	.508	6
Detroit	54	70	.435	15
Chicago	48	76	.387	21

West Division

Houston	76	49	.608	—
Los Angeles	65	61	.516	11½
Seattle	64	63	.504	13
Texas	62	63	.496	14
Oakland	55	71	.437	21½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	75	48	.610	—
Miami	62	62	.500	13½
Atlanta	56	68	.452	19½
New York	54	70	.435	21½
Philadelphia	45	79	.363	30½

Central Division

Chicago	67	57	.540	—
Milwaukee	66	61	.520	2½
St. Louis	63	62	.504	4½
Pittsburgh	60	66	.476	8
Cincinnati	53	73	.421	15

West Division

Los Angeles	89	35	.718	—
Arizona	69	57	.548	21
Colorado	68	57	.544	21½
San Diego	56	69	.448	33½
San Francisco	51	77	.398	40

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

End of Summer Coed 4-Person Beach Volleyball Tournament

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Charnessa Lizama, left, of Hitfaced tries to set up teammate Jason Limes in their finals game against Handicapped in last Saturday's End of Summer Coed 4-Person Beach Volleyball Tournament at Sandy Beach.

Jessie Palacios, left, of Handicapped goes for the kill against a defender.

Benjie Seman, left, of Resting Beach Face tries to go for the kill.

Kathy Winkfield eyes the ball as she prepares to set up her teammate.

Somia Quan serves the ball in their game against Sam Da Soo.

Alfredo Guevarra of Resting Beach Face prepares to serve.

Jessie Palacios, left, saves the ball as teammate Knohlynn Gechig looks on.

Bryan Valenton, right, of Handicapped goes for the dig while teammates Knohlynn Gechig, center, and Jessie Palacios look on.

Cavs trade Irving to Celtics for Thomas, more

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Fister allows only leadoff homer as BoSox romp

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CNMI hoists Nations Cup, again

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI Junior National Tennis Team coach Jeff Race hoists the Nations Cup, while his players flash the No. 1 sign after ruling the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships that concluded in Fiji yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior National Tennis Team pulled off a nail-biter to claim the Nations Cup in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

"This year's Nations Cup was as close as it could possibly be. The score line shows us winning by one match, but several of the matches we took were actually won by one point, as we were playing no-add due to bad weather. So, in reality we won by a single point of tennis out of hundreds played. I am super proud of this team," said coach Jeff Race yesterday at the conclusion of the nearly two-week competition in Fiji.

"This is what we worked all year for—No. 1 in the Pacific for the second year in a row. Remarkable achievement Team NMI," Race added.

The Nations Cup was decided by the singles and doubles games played in the U12, U14 and U16 age groups in the first week of the POJC and the Commonwealth survived tough challenges from runner-up Tahiti, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia. Eleven other nations participated in the annual tournament.

In the girls U16 singles and doubles finals, the CNMI had a sweep. Carol Lee won the division title after beating Tahiti's Guitton and then the former teamed up with Malika Miyawaki in downing Guitton anew and Samoa's Eleanor Schuster in the doubles finals. Miyawaki also played in the singles and was ranked No. 9, while the CNMI's third bet in the age group, Grace Choi, finished 11th.

In the boys U16 singles, Robbie Schorr placed third and he had the same ranking in the doubles after partnering with Ken Song. The four CNMI players all made it to the semis of the doubles event with Michael Ren and Vincent Tudela ending up in fourth place. Song, Ren, and Tudela placed No. 7, 10, and 13 in

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Strong finish for Conatsu, Ji Min

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ji Min Woo and Conatsu Kaga won their last games in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships Team Event to give North Pacific the temporary lead against East Pacific, 2-1.

Woo routed Tonga's Christopher Maasi, 6-1, in the first set of the opening boys U14 singles match in the North-East tiff and then completed the sweep with a tough 7-6 (2) triumph in the second yesterday in Fiji. Conatsu duplicated Woo's victory in two sets after downing Samoa's Penina Kamu in the third singles game, 6-2, 6-3. In the other girls U14 singles match, Tahiti's Celine Snogan put East Pacific on the board following a 6-1, 6-1 win over Conatsu's sister, Coume.

With its 2-1 lead against East Pacific, North Pacific improved its record to 4-7, pending results of the remaining five games in the pairing. A North Pacific sweep of the four doubles matches and one singles will give the squad a 9-7 record—the same mark West Pacific earned after completing the

See STRONG on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Hye Jin Elliot returns to Fiji's Charlotte Nicholas during their U12 singles game in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships Team Event in Fiji yesterday. Elliot won, 6-2, 6-4.

Victoria tops mahi category in Guam derby

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Husband and wife Diego and Vicky Benavente of *Victoria* show the 24.9-lb mahi they caught last Sunday during the Guam Marianas International Fishing Derby.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Victoria won the mahi category of the Guam Marianas International Fishing Derby held over the weekend after reeling in a 24.9-lb catch.

"It was our only catch and the heaviest mahi we have caught so far," said crewmember Vicky Benavente, who joined *Victoria* captain and her husband Diego, and fellow anglers Scott Schular and Joe Deleon Guerrero in the Aug. 19 to 20 competition.

Victoria came back to the loading dock last Saturday empty-handed and seemed headed for another fruitless voyage last Sunday as morning had already passed and still there's no signs of getting a prized catch. Then early afternoon, while coasting the Rota Banks, north of Guam, *Victoria* reeled in the more than five feet mahi.

"We reeled it into the boat around 12:30pm. This is the biggest that we've caught, bigger by just .3lb than the mahi that gave us the win in the Saipan Fishermen's Association Mahi Derby in 2015," Vicky told *Saipan Tribune* after *Victoria* made it back to Saipan shore last Tuesday morning.

"The Guam derby started at 5am and ended at 7pm. That's 14 hours on

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